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BY JODY REESE

GRANITE VIEWS

Why the free ride?



In New Hampshire we operate our state government pretty close to the bone. We're the only state that has a completely self-supported park system, and the House and Senate

just cut 10 percent of the entire state budget to include 50 percent of aid to the college system.

So it's a little surprising to find the state virtually giving away low-number and vanity license places. In a state that's all about personal responsibility and departments raising their own revenues through user fees, New Hampshire's elite license plate owners get a free ride. Vanity plates in New Hampshire cost \$44 a year and low-digit plates are free.

That's not the case in Texas, where they now auction off vanity plates to the highest bidder, getting as much as \$15,000 for one plate.

New Hampshire has long used low-digit plates to reward political cronies, and the practice, however meaningless today, is anathema to New Hampshire's reputation for good local government. Low numbers remind us that favors are being traded in smoked-filled rooms in the basement of some state agency — or at least that's the impression political favors give. It's un-New Hampshire, and the practice should be abandoned for a system that lets the marketplace value the plates.

This would do a couple of things.

First, it would help the motor vehicle department fund itself and use fewer of our tax dollars. It's not cheap to register a car these days. And by essentially selling vanity and low-digit plates below market value, the state is giving a subsidy to those plate owners. By letting the market set the rate, regular plate holders could pay less or the extra money raised could be used to help fund education.

Second, it would remove a stain on New Hampshire's good government name. No one would want a low-digit plate if it carried no value. So what value does it carry? Are police less likely to pull over a swerving driver with a low-digit plate? I would hope that political cronies aren't getting out of drunk driving arrests because police are afraid to tangle with the son of a bigwig in state government. Is that the kind of state we want to live in? Even if there are no shenanigans associated with the plates, they leave an impression that there are. That's not good for New Hampshire and actually can encourage state officials to bend the rules because they think others are doing it. Not too long ago state employees were caught selling state identifications to illegal immigrants. These could easily fall into the hands of terrorists and be used to harm Americans. A corrupt state government is no joke and any real or perceived favoritism is a gateway to more serious graft and corruption.

And finally I think we have a moral obligation to those who pay taxes and use government services to make sure that we're being fair in how we raise money and spend it. Here is a case where we're giving a select group of people a valuable service for below-market values, or, better put, a subsidy, for no reason that can be justified back to taxpayers. That's not right.

It's would be easy to fix this: just auction off the plates and bring in an extra few million dollar a year. I wonder how much "Red Sox" would go for?

12 Beach reads

It's summertime and the reading is easy. We asked book experts in southern New Hampshire what titles would make good beach reading, and they responded with oodles of suggestions in mysteries, nonfiction, novels, and kids' books. Find the perfect paperback or hottest hardcover to fit into your tote bag as you head to New Hampshire's sandy shores. Cover image by David Coscia.



Also on the cover: The Currier Museum of Art is hosting its first-ever **all-video art exhibit**. Reporter Adam Coughlin explains on page 20. Plus, get into the area's **music and nightlife** with our stories and event listings starting on page 50, where Michael Witthaus talks with Trace Adkins and Angel Roy talks with Todd Sucherman, the drummer for Styx.

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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Prison release reform bill reformed:** The state Senate passed a measure that proponents maintain would get tough on criminals. The measure comes in response to a prison reform bill that was enacted last year. The bill was designed to reduce recidivism and costs associated with the corrections system. But one of the components of the bill called for the early release of offenders, including violent offenders, in a monitoring system. Proponents said that gave officials a chance to monitor criminals instead of just setting them loose without any ability to watch them at the end of their terms. The current legislation, Senate Bill 52, returns power to the state's parole board by giving it the ability to determine which violent and sexual offenders should be released from prison and how long they can be sent back following a parole violation. The bill last year mandated that paroled criminals could only be recommitted for a maximum of 90 days after a parole violation. "...The board has the authority to ensure potentially dangerous criminals are kept off of the streets," said Sen. Fenton Groen, R-Rochester, in a Senate press release. Lawmakers have said this bill would correct an "oversight" in the previous legislation, which became a political football in the 2010 gubernatorial race.

• **Author of no-tax pledge produces presidential version:** Tom Thomson, son of former governor Meldrim Thomson and current honorary chairman of Americans for Prosperity New Hampshire, released a pledge for consideration by all 2012 presidential candidates. The pledge asks those who sign it to commit to working tirelessly to support and advance fiscal conservatism. Governor Thomson was the author of the New Hampshire Pledge, which called for all gubernatorial candidates to veto any state sales or income tax legislation. "I am proud to continue my father's legacy," Thomson said. "I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss my pledge with the presidential candidates as they visit New Hampshire in the coming months." The pledge specifically requests that those who sign it commit to cutting taxes, fees and regulations, cutting spending and reducing the national debt, cutting the size of government at all levels, securing the nation's borders, becoming energy independent within eight years and faithfully and forcefully upholding, following and protecting the U.S. Constitution.

• **Education bill addresses state aid:** The Senate passed two measures last week that would reform education funding and teacher non-renewal. House Bill 337 addresses how the state will calculate and distribute adequate education grants for the next two years, according to a Senate press release. The measure maintains state aid at its current level for all school districts. For Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013, the level of general fund spending would be \$578 million, plus \$363 million from the state education property tax. The legislation adds a new category of differentiated aid that includes \$675 for every student not proficient in third-grade reading, a critical point in a student's academic development. "This legislation will provide the stability our local communities require and it stops the perpetuation of battles between "winning" and "losing" communities," said Sen. Jim Rausch, R-Derry, in the release.

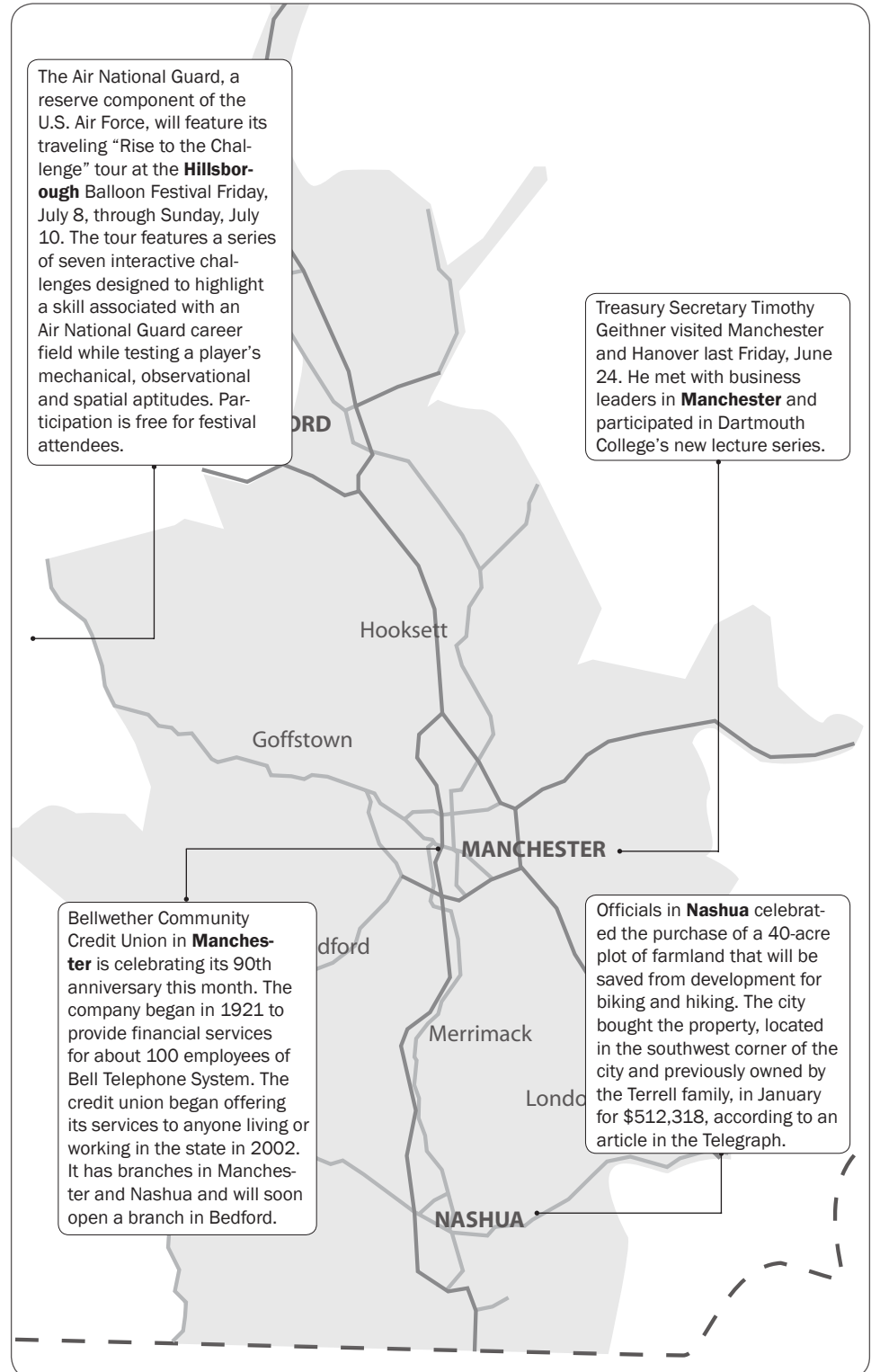
• **Bill would change teacher evaluation process:** Senate Bill 196 extends a teacher's probationary period from three to five years. It also requires local school districts to develop a teacher performance evaluation policy. The legislation allows teachers to seek appeal through arbitration if that language is in their current contract. Proponents of the bill say it will make it easier for school districts to get rid of under-performing teachers. Opponents don't like that it removes the requirement that administrators give notice to teachers who are under-performing as well as a chance to improve. Opponents also say that administrators should be able to tell within three years whether a teacher should move out of probationary status. But supporters of the bill say it will only impact poorly performing teachers and will ultimately improve the quality of education.

• **NH, Iowa GOP chairs meet:** Jack Kimball, chairman of the state GOP, met last week with Iowa GOP Chairman Matt Strawn. The two spoke about the bond that unites the two states' traditional early nominating contests, according to a party press release. "It is important for our presidential candidates to have that face to face contact with the voters of Iowa and New Hampshire because they really do the vetting for the country," Kimball said in a statement. "New Hampshire will hold the first-in-the-nation primary and all that matters at the end of the day is we as Republicans will stand together to reject the Obama agenda."

• **Butler leaving Great American Downtown:** Sue Butler is resigning as executive director of Great American Downtown in Nashua. She's been with the organization, which works to promote downtown Nashua, since February 2008 after spending five years as director of marketing for Intown Manchester. Butler will leave the organization in early July to open a consulting business. "I plan on taking my expertise in operations and marketing and sharing this with others," Butler said in a statement. Great American Downtown's board of directors will begin a search for a new executive director soon. Interested applicants should send résumés to info@greatamericandowntown.org.

• **New signs on I-93:** Motorists on Interstate 93 between Massachusetts and Manchester will soon benefit from electronic message signs and closed-circuit cameras aimed at improving incident response and work zone safety and reducing traffic congestion, according to the state Department of Transportation. The Interstate 93 Advanced Traffic Management System involves installation of strategically located Intelligent Transportation System devices along the 19-mile corridor. Routes 101, 111 and 28 and Interstate 293 are included in the \$3.8 million project. There will be six Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), eight closed-circuit television cameras and four variable speed limit signs at three locations. Each DMS, eight feet high and 26 feet wide, will be mounted overhead and used to convey electronic traffic messages. They'll be located at Exits 8 and 9 northbound and southbound on Interstate 93, Exit 1 southbound on Interstate 293, Exits 3 and 4 on Interstate 93 north and southbound, and north of the Massachusetts state line on Interstate 93 northbound.

• **Self-defense bill changed:** The Senate signed off on changes to Senate Bill 88, which clarifies a person's right to use "deadly force" and to display a firearm. The bill was a result



of a committee of conference compromise that combined several bills into one. The measure does not include any "constitutional carry" provisions, according to a Senate press release. The measure allows a person who is anywhere to use deadly force to protect oneself or a third person. It amends the definition of non-deadly force to include the act of producing or displaying a weapon and it inserts a civil immunity provision for the use of force against a perpetrator in certain circumstances. The measure also deletes the minimum mandatory sentencing requirement for felony convictions which include the possession, use or attempted use of a firearm.

• **Laid-off teachers get a website to turn to:** The state has launched a new web page dedicated to helping teachers and education professionals facing layoffs. The new page (www.nhworks.org), titled Teachers in Transition, contains information and referral links to assist teachers, paraprofessionals and others who are being laid off due to reduced local school budgets. The site provides information on services teachers may want to access, including unem-

ployment benefits, job match and job search services, as well as links to help them consider other career fields, according to a state press release. The site provides referral links to training programs, as well as links to public and private post-secondary institutions in the state. People facing employment challenges are urged to visit their local NH Works Career Center, of which there are 13 statewide.

• **Shaheen joins Coburn on bill to restrict federal spending on rides:** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, along with Oklahoma Republican Sen. Tom Coburn, introduced legislation that would save about \$500 million by reducing the amount of money the federal government can spend on buying and leasing non-essential vehicles. The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform endorsed reducing the size of the vehicle fleet. The bill would trim the federal vehicle budget by 20 percent. Shaheen called it a "commonsense place" to cut spending. The federal vehicle fleet includes 662,000 automobiles, including cars, vans, SUVs, trucks, buses and ambulances. The vehicles consume about one million gallons of fuel per day.


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NAME: Paul


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Let the budget begin

On July 1, it's happy new fiscal year

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

There's plenty of pain to go around in the two-year budget that will take effect Friday, July 1.

Lawmakers from the House and Senate ironed out their differences, and Gov. John Lynch, with the threat that lawmakers would make even deeper cuts if he were to veto the bill, let it become law without his signature. The plan spends \$4.42 billion over Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.

"Promises made, promises kept," said Speaker of the House William O'Brien, R-Mont Vernon, in a statement. "The New Hampshire House and Senate have delivered on the commitment we made last year to live within our means, not raise taxes and fees, stop borrowing and, where possible, target tax cuts to produce economic growth. We promised the voters that we would pass tax cuts to help our residents, make our state more competitive and get our economy moving again. We have done that by lowering the tax burden on small businesses to help them grow."

Others weren't so sure this was the right direction.

"Any budget is a reflection of the state's priorities and values, and this is a reflection of the current legislators' priorities and values but I don't know if it's one that's necessarily shared by the people of New Hampshire," said Jeff McLynch, executive director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute. He noted that the budget cuts general and education fund spending by about \$430 million.

"This budget puts college out of reach for too many families, jeopardizing our state's successful economic strategy; it will drive up the cost of health care, and put health care at risk for too many of our most vulnerable families; and it undercuts some of the basic workings of state government, impacting the services expected by our citizens," Lynch said in a statement. "... These are tough times and I recognize we have to make tough choices. That is what I did with the budget I presented in February."

"To put it in more direct terms, the budget as a whole will make it harder for New Hampshire residents to find and keep jobs, to afford health insurance...to get ahead," McLynch added. "It will be a less desirable place to do business...."

But GOP legislators said this was just what the doctor ordered.

On paper there are lots of ways to look at how much this budget cuts back government. Lawmakers were charged with closing a nearly \$900 million budget gap. Taking a look at what pro-

jected spending levels would be prior to the current two-year budget, this budget proposes to cut spending by about 15 percent — obviously significant. But government was forced to cut spending during the course of the current two-year budget rather dramatically, said Daniel Barrick, deputy director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies. "They actually spent a lot less than they were authorized," Barrick said.

So looking at what this coming budget proposes to spend compared with what government actually spent during the past two years, the spending cut is closer to about 6 percent.

O'Brien called this budget historic, and that's true. "At least in recent memory, it's the largest single cut in state spending from biennium to biennium," Barrick said.

Cuts

The state's higher education system, both the university system and the community college system, take substantial hits, as do hospitals. The budget decreases funding to the university system by \$114 million and to the community colleges by \$29 million, and it cuts \$115 million in payments to hospitals, McLynch said.

Reports indicate the impact on higher education will be felt mostly in higher tuition costs, though university system officials have also announced they'll need to eliminate as many as 200 jobs through layoffs, retirement and attrition. The cuts in payments to hospitals, which were used for uncompensated care, could result in greater health insurance premium costs. That \$115 million cut to hospitals is money that would typically be matched by federal funds, so in essence hospitals are losing \$230 million, McLynch said.

About a decade ago, it cost a typical New Hampshire family about 40 percent of its disposable income each year to send a child to the University of New Hampshire. Today, it is 60 percent, and with this budget it could grow to 70 percent, McLynch said. Lynch said the cuts to higher education were the most severe and dramatic in the country.

There will also be big cuts in payments to communities to help them pay pensions. The state had been paying 35 percent, then it was reduced to 25 percent and this budget would bring that to essentially zero. The hope is the comprehensive retirement reform bill, which raises contribution rates among other things, will offset the costs to communities.

Lawmakers are hoping retirement changes

will immediately begin offsetting local costs. The legislature did throw in \$7 million in case there is a gap between savings from the reform bill and what communities end up paying, Barrick said.

There are plenty of folks who don't think the retirement reform will save communities nearly as much as officials are predicting. Some say it helps the state but will pass the burden to communities. Lynch, for one, termed the savings the legislature expects to get from retirement reform "unrealistic."

While Lynch had proposed more substantial cuts in local aid, Republicans didn't want to downshift costs to communities, which would ultimately result in property tax increases, Barrick said. "They made the decision to pass the highest cuts to hospitals and higher education," Barrick said.

The budget will reduce funding for childcare services, which is tied to income, by \$10 million relative to what Lynch proposed. McLynch said the program serves as many as 4,000 children and the cuts will likely result in wait lists. The budget also eliminates \$4.5 million for the unemployed parents program, which helps 300 to 500 families with rent and worker training.

Cuts to services to mental health programs received lots of attention in March when the House passed its budget. The Senate restored about \$18 million to community mental health services. The conversation had been about how many people would lose services, but Barrick said that assumes the providers make no changes, that they wouldn't reduce staff or find efficiencies and ways to forgo other expenses.

"The question right now is not how many people will lose services...but how will the department implement this budget," Barrick said. "What changes will they make to try to mitigate these losses?"

Other changes and cuts

The 10-cent reduction in the cigarette tax has received plenty of attention. The tax, which proponents say will bring out-of-state smokers here for their cigarette purchases and thus increase revenue, could cost the state about \$7 million per year, McLynch said. McLynch said the legislation is written so that if revenues don't come back on the cigarette tax as expected, the cut can be undone.

The state also shifted how it operates its Medicare program from a fee-for-service set-up to one where a third-party company manages the system. The company is motivated to keep costs down by encouraging people to seek pre-

ventive care, Barrick said. Officials have said that program could save as much as \$30 million annually. As it's the largest single program in government, Barrick said he'd be following how effective the new system is.

Lawmakers can throw things in at the back of the budget. For instance, in this budget plan, lawmakers call for the Department of Corrections to cut another \$13 million. There's already been talk of some form of privatization; the legislature this session signed off on giving the commissioner the authority to send as many as 600 prisoners to out-of-state or private facilities.

"That's a pretty big systematic change," Barrick said. Corrections has been a problem for years. The controversial prison reform bill that took effect last year is designed to, among other things, reduce costs, but that's a longer-term process.

Lawmakers also call on Lynch to find another \$50 million in savings, with \$20 million to come from the general fund. That's expected to be worked out through contract negotiations with state employees' unions, Barrick said.

"We've seen public employees, they've been paying close attention, there's been protests," Barrick said. "...What kind of environment will there be to negotiate those cuts? ... The budget depends on finding that savings. It's not balanced without it."

Those revenue estimates

Legislators settled on conservative revenue estimates — they're expecting small rates of growth. That's probably a good idea given the economy, but if revenues end up being substantially greater than they expect, what do lawmakers do with the extra cash?, officials ask.

Lynch's budget would have spent about \$270 million more than what the House and Senate settled on. Under these revenue projections, in 2013 the state still wouldn't be at the level of revenue it collected in 2010.

The Senate has said if revenues exceed expectations it would like to pump the funds back into hospitals, while the House has suggested it would move for tax relief. Or will the option be to invest in the state's infrastructure, highways, roads, bridges, Barrick asked.

Lawmakers are treating this budget as a new framework that dramatically cuts the size of government.

"...This is merely a down payment on our commitment," O'Brien said. "This budget is a historic achievement, but we know that there remains much more work to do. This is only the beginning."

Who's got the numbers?

Legislators play the majority game

By Jeff Mucciarone
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There was a time when the state political debate wasn't framed around whether or not one side had a veto-proof majority. But this session, that's what it's come down to.

Gov. John Lynch handed down some vetoes two weeks ago and the legislature promptly responded by overriding him on three measures, perhaps most notably a bill that would require doctors give parents 48 hours notice before performing an abortion on a minor.

Lynch also vetoed measures that would have

eliminated the Rail Transit Authority and comprehensively reformed the state's retirement system. (The retirement bill was expected to be changed and Lynch said in a statement he preferred to work with a finished product.) Lynch also vetoed a measure that would have repealed the state's minimum wage law and a bill that would have ended the requirement that new homes have sprinkler systems installed. Along with the parental notification bill, lawmakers overrode the minimum wage bill and the sprinkler bill.

The House and Senate passed a state budget for the next two years, and proponents of the bill

were quick to point out that it passed both houses by a — wait for it — veto-proof majority.

"It didn't used to be framed that way," said Donna Sytek, former speaker of the state House of Representatives.

Lynch said last week he'd let the budget become law without his signature. He could have vetoed it, sure, but the threat from lawmakers was that if he did, they wouldn't simply override his veto; they'd cut even more and hand it back to him.

Amie Arnesen, host of *Political Chowder*, suggested last week that Lynch may have made the right political play with his flurry of vetoes,

that legislators were possibly starting to feel the pressure and that perhaps GOP leadership, specifically in the House, had gone too far. She said she thought some senators might be growing reluctant to stick their necks out on an override.

Apparently not, or at least not yet.

Loaded majorities

That three vetoes by Lynch were overridden in such a short time is certainly significant, but it's probably more a product of the legislative makeup than anything else, Sytek said.

Historically, the majorities at the Statehouse

aren't usually this lopsided. Overriding a veto would have been a much bigger deal in a different time. Republicans don't need Democrats right now, of course, to do anything they want.

During times of more normal party break-downs, there would be several questions legislators would need to address to determine whether they'd support an override. Did they support their body's leadership? Did they want to support the governor? And what about their party, Sytek said.

Leadership would be working hard to round up votes to override a veto and subsequently a governor would be doing the same thing trying to sustain it. There might be some of that now, but the legislative mix suggests there isn't much hand-wringing.

With such big majorities, there's more pressure on legislators to vote with leadership. And Speaker of the House William O'Brien in particular — say what you want about him — has plenty of support in the House. To a certain extent, whatever he says goes.

The House has a "whip system" where there is someone on each committee in charge of polling committee members to see where they stand on a given measure.

"If the majorities are closer, there's a lot more begging and arm-twisting, by the governor and the speaker," Sytek said. "The Senate is a smaller group and it's easier to apply local pressure to senators."

Right now, state politics are hyperpartisan. They were two years ago when Democrats held all the control, and they are now with the GOP at the helm.

Every one is different

Sytek remembered an education funding bill that came through under governor Steve Merrill's tenure. She said Democrats made a fuss about it and Republicans largely supported it. The measure passed, but then Merrill vetoed the measure saying the state didn't have the money to fund it.

That left Republicans with a dilemma: do they stick with their party and go for the override or do they stick with their Republican governor? In the end, the veto override failed, Sytek said.

Even governor John Sununu saw one of his vetoes overridden on a controversial "living will" measure. It passed the legislature with bipartisan support. Sununu vetoed the bill. But lawmakers found the two-thirds majority they needed to override it.

"Even a strong governor like Sununu," Sytek said. "Lawmakers made personal decisions."

In another measure during then-governor Jeanne Shaheen's time in office, Shaheen vetoed a bill that would have created a dedicated fund from liquor profits for treatment of alcohol and substance abuse. New Hampshire historically doesn't like dedicated funds.

But ultimately, without any institutional or party loyalty per se, lawmakers overrode the veto, Sytek said.

Keeping the crew in line

With about 300 legislators in the House, these are good times for Republicans in New Hampshire. Prior to this session, though, many wondered how well O'Brien and his team would be able to keep them in line. With few hiccups, the answer has been very well.

A bill that would enact right-to-work in the state has so far been the only snag in O'Brien's tenure. Though the measure passed the House by a big margin, it wasn't veto-proof. He recently told the Union Leader he'd wait possibly until the fall to hold an override vote.

"They're on a mission," Sytek said of House lawmakers.

Sytek said that during her tenure as speaker she remembered having 180 lawmakers who would be with her on most issues. But she needed 201 lawmakers on her side to pass legislation.

"Where were those votes going to come from?" Sytek said. "Who are you going to make a deal with?"

O'Brien has got a large, distinctively conservative Republican mix.

"It's not a tough sell," Sytek said.

2012 NH PRIMARY NOTEBOOK

They like him in New Mexico

Hippo sits down with Gary Johnson

By Adam Coughlin and Jeff Mucciarone
news@hippopress.com

Gary Johnson says he doesn't like to blow his own horn. He didn't like to do that when he was governor of New Mexico for eight years from 1994 to 2003, and he acknowledges it is perhaps why his name recognition hasn't been strong.

The socially liberal, fiscally conservative Republican is running for president because he says the country is on the verge of financial collapse. The successful businessman's campaign focus is New Hampshire. He recently opened a campaign headquarters in Manchester.

"I'm putting my chips on the table in New Hampshire," Johnson (www.garyjohnson2012.com) said during an interview with the Hippo on Monday, June 27. "It either happens here or it doesn't," he said. He's made 12 visits to New Hampshire during the past 16 months.

Johnson, an avid athlete, has competed in several Ironman triathlons in Hawaii and more than 30 marathons, finds his passion in skiing and has reached the summit of Mount Everest. He turned a one-man handyman store in 1974 into a company with more than 1,000 employees that he sold in 1999. After a paragliding accident in 2003, he slapped on a tool belt and built his dream home north of Taos in prime ski country.

At the moment, Johnson may be more well-known nationally and in New Hampshire as the candidate who was excluded from a presidential debate in New Hampshire this month. He had taken part in the first primary debate in South Carolina. He was told he didn't meet the New Hampshire debate requirements, a point his team fought but to no avail.

"I never even considered I'd be excluded," Johnson said. Until now, he said, he'd believed in the political system and how it allows candidates to "crack the door" open — from there, it's up to the candidate. But he feels the door

was slammed shut and he has soured on the process.

He said the field of GOP candidates is all the things people make fun of Republicans for. While Republicans talk about liberty and freedom, they still support measures that infringe on liberty and freedom. On the other hand, he said Democrats can support measures that promote liberty and freedom but only with a big toll on the pocketbook.

It's the economy that has Johnson running this time around. He'd begin by balancing the budget, which he said would be the only chance America has of emerging from its debt crisis. He says government doesn't create any jobs but can create a level playing field and an environment of certainty that promotes growth. He'd eliminate business-to-business taxes and other business taxes that thwart growth and institute a fair tax. "That would really plant the seeds for economic growth in the long term," Johnson said. "It is that simple."

As governor, he says, he probably vetoed more legislation than all the rest of the country's governors combined. He has said and will say no to all spending, he maintains. He'd push for abolishing the federal Department of Education in deference to the "50 laboratories of best practices" working in each state. He says people don't often understand that taking federal money usually comes with strings attached — that it often costs more to take it than it would to decline. He looks to make decisions absent of ideology. "We just took it on A to Z," Johnson said of his tenure as governor. "Politics wasn't a consideration. ... I advanced the ball."

As president, he'd tackle Medicare and Medicaid, dramatically cut back military spending, institute drug policy including legalization of marijuana, and work to reform the country's prison system — under his watch, New Mexico privatized its prison system and subsequently saved one-third of what it had been spending on corrections. Legalizing marijuana would help



Gary Johnson. Courtesy photo.

eliminate 75 percent of the border violence in Mexico, Johnson said.

When asked about governing a border state, Johnson turned the question and wondered if New Hampshire felt the need for a fence on its border with Canada. He didn't think a fence was the answer for New Mexico either. Johnson would support legislation to make it easier for immigrants to obtain a work VISA, not a green card or straight citizenship. He said he believes immigrants, particularly Mexicans, would gladly take a legal route to cross the border if one existed.

Financially independent, Johnson could have done anything. But he felt public office was most worthy.

"I always viewed this as a higher calling," Johnson said, adding he always wanted to be directly involved with public policy. "It was always a goal of mine. I was elected [governor] on my words but I was reelected on my deeds. ... Maybe I'm the best guy for the job."

While other candidates are working hard to corner the market on tea party support, Johnson isn't all that worried about the movement's lack of an embrace for him. "I don't think that's such a negative," Johnson said.

"Just give me a look along with everybody else and I think I'll fare well in your analysis," Johnson said.

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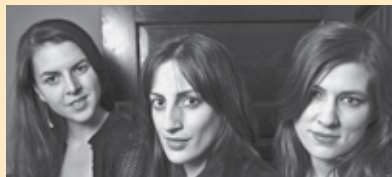


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Saving our character

Meet Jeff Woodburn, Historical Resources leader

Jeff Woodburn was recently named chairman of the New Hampshire State Historical Resources Council, which acts in an advisory capacity to the state Division of Historical Resources. Woodburn, a Dalton resident, is a freelance writer for several publications in the state and is the editor of the blog www.whitemtnews.com. He also teaches social studies at the Whitefield School and is executive director of the Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions. He was a state legislator from 1988 to 1990.

Q: *What are your thoughts on taking over as chairman?*

Well, the past chairman had been director of the program, and I'm really a lay person who is stepping in. I owned a company that just sold and brokered historical properties for 10 years. I'm out of that now, but I understand the reality of the real estate world, which has been our biggest threat.... A number of buildings are being taken down. Commercial real estate is more about big lots.... That's really the challenge. Hopefully, we can make headway in that area.

For folks who aren't familiar with it, what does the Council do?

The office itself ... their mission is to protect historic resources, cultural resources. A lot of the focus is on ... projects, highways, transmission lines, when they may impact historic properties. That's sort of what this office does. We also manage the [National Register of Historic Places]; putting properties into the National Register is a federal process but it flows through the state. The state has its own ... process ... that's not as difficult. But it gives people the opportunity to learn the history, to give some degree of prominence to their properties. People understand their properties, they learn to preserve their properties. It's a natural process and they become better stewards of the buildings.

So you take a look at the potential impacts of projects?

Yeah. If a highway is being widened, we'll look at the properties along that route and how it might impact historic resources. That's a federal process usually. We, as a Council, we don't have any control...but we look at historic resources that could be impacted by it. That's our role. ...

What's the register process like from a council perspective?

In terms of what we're usually getting, it's a completed project. The National Register is a very rigorous process. It has to have various criteria, a historical person or a historical event, to try to fit in why it's important to history. It's a very difficult process to get through. Then the state process, it's much easier, it's one we have control of. It's more of the attitude that if it's obviously an element of our local history ... we try to be encouraging and to work with people through the process....

How did you get involved in this type of thing?

I got involved because I was looking to buy a house, a house with tremendous history, but I was scared away because of lead paint, asbestos, by not knowing about old houses. I was spooked by it. And I missed an opportunity to buy an amazingly grand kind of mansion



in Concord ... Ralph Waldo Emerson's daughter was married in the front parlor. To me, they spent so much time telling me about the negative, they didn't spend enough time telling me

about the history. I thought we could do a better job of selling the history, as opposed to the structure, the lots, the roof. That's how I got involved. We sold all kinds of different buildings.... On the structure side, it's really much more about being practical, how to live and take care of properties and not be afraid of an old house.

What are your goals for the Council as you look ahead?

We're mostly responding to things. My priority — I live in northern New Hampshire, which has uniquely different issues — to me, it's the preservation of our regional culture in New Hampshire. That's what people expect when they come to New Hampshire. To protect our commons, and our old houses, old factory buildings so people still get that flavor instead of generic, which has things replaced by the same restaurants, the same signs, the uniformity that runs through so many places in this world today. Reminding people about what's special about New Hampshire's culture and history. ... I try to really remind people those are important things to protect. I'm very concerned.... We're just seeing buildings torn down. I drive around Concord frequently — I lived there for 20 years — and they're tearing buildings down left and right. It's a cancer. It destroys the landscape and creates temporary land changes every 20 years. We can be on the forefront of trying to save buildings and make them usable. We need to understand what we're losing. If you easily knock out a front tooth out of a beautiful set of teeth, you can't think it won't affect the rest of the body — it certainly will. ... I think it's not by putting people in a headlock of government regulation — we can't look [at the government] and say we've been perfect stewards. We can become better stewards of our property. ...

[Woodburn is involved with a number of civic and community organizations and boards.] How did you get involved with so many?

I think it's the ADHD. I get bored awfully quickly. I was involved in politics for a long time but I never really specialized in one area ... I just fell for historic buildings. It's no longer my profession. Now I'm writing and teaching. ... Just sort of one thing leads to another.

—Jeff Mucciarone

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

JUNE 30, 2011

Where is New Hampshire?

Newsweek magazine recently compiled a list of the 500 best public high schools in America, which it has been doing for more than 10 years. This year, however, it changed its methodology to include graduation rate, college matriculation, AP tests taken per graduate, SAT scores and a few other areas. Of the 500 high schools ranked, none were from the Granite State. In fact, neither were any from Vermont or Maine.

QOL score: -2

Comment: *The highest-ranked school in New England was Boston Latin in Massachusetts, which came in at 63. See the whole list at www.newsweek.com/feature/2011/americas-best-high-schools.html.*

Moose hunting season

The NH Wildlife Foundation is once again holding a moose hunting permit auction. However, if you want to win you're going to need some coin. The highest bidder last year paid \$8,600 for a chance to shoot Bullwinkle.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Last year's bidding raised almost \$40,000 for the state's wildlife foundation. The bidding deadline is Aug. 3.*

Nice airport

With construction of the Airport Access Road off the Everett Turnpike nearing completion this year, access to Manchester-Boston Regional Airport should be improved. Even without the access road, one reader told QOL that the experience was much smoother than using Logan Airport in Boston. The reader, having flown in and out of many airports, found Logan dirty and not high-tech. He had difficulty finding the "postage stamp size arrival screen" for his airline and had difficulty communicating with workers at the airport. "Manchester-Boston Regional," he wrote, "is a joy to use. Clean, efficient and state-of-the-art, it deserves our support."

QOL score: +1

Comment: *And you don't have to fight Boston traffic.*

Happy library patrons

After last week's disappointment in finding the Manchester City Library closed on Saturday, QOL was happy to see a library e-newsletter arrive in the Inbox on Tuesday, June 28, announcing "Main Library now open Saturdays during the summer 9:30 to 2:30." A dig into the library's blog found this: "The Main Library will be closed on the following Saturdays: June 18, June 25, and July 2. The Main Library will be open on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. beginning on Saturday, July 9."

QOL score: +2

Comment: *Mancunians can get fresh books and movies on Saturdays after all.*

Commute Green meets its marks

During the course of one week this past May, Commute Green New Hampshire reduced driving miles by 64,731 miles, the group says. The goal was to reduce driving miles by 50,000. The organization organizes a green commute week each year to promote carpooling, biking or riding public transportation to work. The mileage savings this year represents taking six cars off the road for one year, the equivalent of taking 11 round trips from Concord to Los Angeles, and helped save about \$50,000 in commuting costs. More than 600 people registered for the event and hundreds more participated during the week. See all the data at www.commutegreennh.org.

QOL score: +1

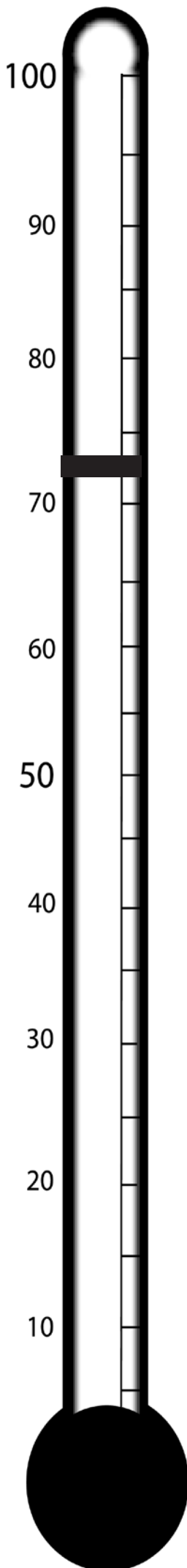
Comment: *The group is planning a Fossil Fuel-Free Friday on July 15.*

QOL score: 70

Net change: +3

QOL this week: 73

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News on Gonzalez worth broadcasting

Every time I see **Adrian Gonzalez** come to bat I think of a scene in the movie *Broadcast News* when Holly Hunter is about to produce a special news broadcast after a Libyan plane engages U.S. planes in a dogfight. It's her first time in that role, but she's up to it. Like when she learns someone in the field has botched an interview, she loses it and says, "DON'T tell me that — do it, I said DO IT!!!!" To which the stunned Network News president who picked her for the assignment says to the bureau chief next to him, "I had no idea she was that good."

That's how I feel every time Gonzalez comes to the plate. I mean I knew the numbers, with three 100-RBI seasons, four straight seasons with at least 30 homers and one .300 season, were pretty good but hardly overwhelming. Not as good as **Mark Teixeira** by the time he was Gonzo's current 29. The Rangers kept him over Gonzo in Texas before trading him to the Padres. And a long way from a young **Manny Ramirez**, who from 26 to 29 drove in 145, 165, 122 and 125. Gonzalez's career best is 119 and is just a stunning 66th overall in runs batted in among ACTIVE players.

That's why I took a wait-and-see attitude after the trade. It's not that I didn't think he was going to be a good pick-up or worth the young talent surrendered or get the usual bump hitters get playing in Fenway (though it hasn't helped **Carl Crawford** yet, has it?). But people were talking 50 doubles and 50 homers for him, which seemed nuts to me since **Albert Belle** in 1995 is the only one to EVER to that.

But you know what? His numbers don't even remotely tell the story of how good a hitter he is. In golf they call guys who always make great contact "good ball strikers." Gonzalez is the equivalent in baseball. In fact, he is the best pure Red Sox ball striker since **Wade Boggs** — who, with the way he hits to left, is who reminds me most of Gonzalez. Except he's got Manny-like power. So there must have been something to that talk about the San Diego park being the size of Yellowstone and how bad the line-up around him was — which I always thought was sort of an excuse.

As I speak, 77 games in, he leads the league

in hitting at .361, RBI with 71, and doubles with 25, and his 114 hits are a whopping 14 more than **Michael Young** in second place with 100. And it puts him on pace to have a monster season with a year-end stat line of .361, 53 doubles, 34 homers, 118 runs scored and 149 runs batted in. With Gonzo hitting .380 at first glance you can make the case that he's getting the usual Fenway bump that almost every newcomer over the years from **David Ortiz** to **Jason Bay** to **Nick Esasky** has enjoyed when they came to Boston. If you don't believe me, as **Casey Stengel** liked to say: you can look it up. And since the likes of **Nomar**, **Mo Vaughn**, **Fred Lynn** and others were never really the same after leaving 81 annual games at Fenway behind, there's more validity to it. Notable exceptions I should point out were **Carlton Fisk**, **Jimmy Foxx** and **Manny** — who was even better in Cleveland and you know what happened that first year in Mannywood.

But he's also hitting .331 on the road, where the power numbers are actually better, so it's obvious he's just really good. All of which is great for the Nation, who'll get to watch him play the next four years at least in his prime. He'll never rack up the lifetime Red Sox numbers to match **Ted Williams** or **Yaz**, but if he keeps playing like this he has a chance to join some pretty good short timers in Sox history, like these:

Fred Lynn: He was the only rookie ever to win MVP when he and fellow rookie **Jim Rice** burst on the scene to lead the Sox to the 1975 pennant. The power numbers were "just" 21 and 105 (Rice was 22 and 102), but he hit .331, was tremendous in center and had a 3-homer, 10-RBI day in Detroit. After that he was OK but not great until 1979, when he hit 39 and 122 while leading the league in hitting at .333. Overall, the averages were just 17 homers, 74 RBI and a .308 average in seven Boston seasons. So, because of that first season, the legend always outweighed the actual production.

Mo Vaughn: He was here for eight years before being driven out by **Dan Duquette**. His best was 1996, when he was MVP after hitting 44 homers, driving in 143 and hitting .326 — numbers Gonzalez could eclipse in 2011,

though he'll have to pick up the homer pace a bit. In 1995 it was 39-126-.300 and in his 1998 walk year it was 40-115-.339. All told, three 30+-homer seasons, four 100-RBI seasons and he hit .300 or better his last five years in Boston. Gonzalez matches that span — Theo got his money's worth — especially since he's a much better fielder.

Nomar Garciaparra: He left under bad circumstances and given all the injuries before and after his departure you wonder if he had a little extra help. But he was a .323 hitter over nine years, had 50 doubles twice, five 20-homer seasons, drove in over 100 four times and won two batting crowns. In winning one of them he hit .372, which was the highest average by a right-handed hitter since **Joe DiMaggio** hit .381 in 1939. Sometimes I forget how good he was.

David Ortiz: Keeping in mind the positive '04 test, you wonder what the impact was. But in his last two seasons in Minnesota he hit 18 and 20 homers before being non-tendered at 26. In Boston it was 31, 41, 47, 54 and 35 (with 52 doubles), a time that included monstrous RBI seasons between 2004 and 2006 when he and Manny formed one of the top 1-2 combinations in history of 139, 147 and 141. The next five years were pretty good too, though not like those. And with him hitting it to left field again he's at 17-48 and .311 at mid-year. So two things are clear: Fenway agreed with Papi, and if Gonzo does what he's done — which he just may — the money's well spent.

There's also **Ken Harrelson**, **Tony Perez**, **Mike Easler** and **Tony Armas**, who had very good, dramatically improved seasons in year one at Fenway — but Gonzalez will blow by all that. So sit back and enjoy, because it's gonna be fun watching A-Gone be an even bigger hit than *Broadcast News* was back in the day when Boggs was getting his annual 200 hits six seasons in a row.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippopress.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM—The Game, 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

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Sports Glossary

Broadcast News: The 1987 commentary on how to get ahead in broadcast news starring Holly Hunter, Albert Brooks and William Hurt. All were nominated for Academy Awards, as was the picture, but alas, Michael Douglas won for *Wall Street*, Cher for *Moonstruck*, Sean Connery for *The Untouchables* and *The Last Emperor* took best picture. Best scene is Brooks as the fill-in anchor on the day of the correspondents dinner getting a case of flop sweat that made Richard Nixon in the Kennedy-Nixon debate look like a cool customer. Best line about the same scene: when Hunter says, "People called in complaining about you sweating" and Brooks says, "No, nice calls, they were worried I was having a heart attack."

Fred Lynn's 3-Homer Game: It came in a 15-1 win over the Tigers in Detroit on June 18, 1975, when he went 5 for 6. He had a single, a triple (that hit off the top of the rail of the wall in left and bounced back onto the field) and the three homers to give him 16 total bases in the game. He also drove in 10 runs and scored four times. Yaz and Nashua's kind-of own Rico Petrocelli were 3 for 3 and my friend the one and only Robbie Weiczorek's favorite player Rick Burleson scored 3 runs. Luis Tiant picked up the win to move to 9-6.

Nick Esasky: Never hit more than 22 homers or drove in 66 with Cincy. That includes a paltry 15 and 62 with them in 1988, which got him traded to Boston with reliever Rob Murphy for Todd Benzinger and Jeff Sellers. Took an immediate liking to Fenway by hitting 30 homers and knocking in 103 in what turned out to be his only year there. The big year got him big money as a free agent from Atlanta — a place where he never came close to matching the Boston numbers. Though, that had more to do with getting vertigo, which forced him to retire after playing just 9 games for the Braves, than leaving Fenway behind.

Jason Bay: Mets leftfielder who left his heart and home run stroke in Boston. Went for 36 and 119 his last year with the Sox, and just 6 and 47 in a 95-game injury-plagued season with the Mets the next. But with him at just 3 and 16 at the midway point of 2011 I'm guessing leaving Fenway for Citi Field has a little something to do with it as well.

The Big Story: If you ain't been paying attention while the Bruins were making their run to winning the Stanley Cup and through the NBA playoff season, you're now free to start paying attention to the Fisher Cats. And if you're in that crowd you are joining a pretty good season in progress as at deadline the F-Cats have the best record in the Eastern League. At 43-27 they lead the Trenton Yankees by three games as they threaten to win their first Eastern League title since their first year in town in 2005. All of that is the prelude to next week when Portland will be in town for the weekend to be followed by the second Eastern League All-Star Game played at the newly re-christened Northeast Delta Dental Stadium on Wednesday, July 13. So buckle up, it should be a great second half to the year, if you were one of those folks who missed the first of the season.

Sports 101: With **Adrian Gonzalez** hitting .359 at our deadline and running away with the American League batting race, we'll ask: how many of the 11 players to lead the AL in batting while playing for the Red Sox can you name?

Alumni News: The Struggles continue for **Chris Carpenter**, who was 2-7 at deadline and the Cardinals just 5-10 in his starts. The good news is he was a winner in his last outing when held the Phillies to five hits and just one run to get his second win and lower the ERA to 4.29.

The Numbers: Leading the way is for the

F-Cats is outfielder **Mike McDade**, who leads the EL in doubles and runs scored and is among the leaders in homers with 109, RBI with 48 and he's hitting .310. On the mound, all-name teamer **Reidier Gonzalez** helped the Cats off to the great start by going 6-2 with a 2.56 ERA before his promotion to AAA Las Vegas. So **Chad Beck** is now the wins leader with 7.

Sports 101 Answer: The Red Sox batting champs in order of most titles won to least are Ted Williams (6), Wade Boggs (5), Yaz (3), Nomar Garciaparra (2), Pete Runnels (2 — '60 and '62), Jimmy Foxx ('38), Billy Goodman ('50), Fred Lynn ('79), Carney Lansford ('81), Manny Ramirez ('02) and Bill Mueller ('03).

On This Date — June 30: 1908 Boston's **Cy Young**'s second no-hitter beats NY Highlanders, 8-0; 1929 **Bobby Jones** shoots a 294 at Winged Foot CC to win 33rd U.S. Open; 1933 **Dizzy Dean** strikes out 17 Cubs to win 8-2; 1962 **Sandy Koufax** throws the first of his four no-hitters in a 5-0 win by the Dodgers over the NY Mets; 1965 NFL grants Atlanta Falcons a franchise; 1966 Youngest heavyweight boxing champ "**Iron**" **Mike Tyson** is born in NYC; 1970 Brazil beats Italy 4-1 in soccer's ninth World Cup at Mexico City; 1978 Giants' **Willie McCovey** becomes 12th to hit 500 HRs; 1988 Chicago agrees to build a new stadium so White Sox won't move to Florida; 1995 Indians' **Eddie Murray** is 20th to reach 3,000 hits.

The Numbers

2.5 — million Little Leaguers in the pool nationally from which young **Colton Bullard** of Rye was chosen for the organization's annual Good Sport Award.

16 — margin by which Maine outscored the New Hampshire team in the annual Senior All-Star Classic played between the two states at SNHU last week when NH was swept in a doubleheader 12-0 and 8-4.

25 — years since the shocking death of Maryland star **Len Bias** to a cocaine overdose two days after he was selected by the Celtics with the second

pick in the 1986 NBA draft.

80 — age in years of new/old Florida Marlins manager **Jack McKeon** after he went back into the dugout after **Freddy Gonzalez** stepped down as his team was 1-17 in the first 18 days of June.

1,000 — dollars **Charlie Davis** was fined by the disciplinary committee of Major League Soccer for "putting the game in disrepute" while playing for DC United. In English that means the one-time Manchester resident deceived the refs in a way that had a direct impact on the game.

1,605 — fans who turned out to see Bruin **Shawn Thornton** throw out the first pitch for the Futures Collegiate Baseball League game between the Nashua Silver Knights and the Seacoast Mavericks at Holman Stadium on Friday. The crowd to see the newly crowned Stanley Cup champ was more than triple the usual 500 or so who watch the Silver Knights.

4,841 — average attendance for the F-Cats over their first 34 home dates in the 2011 season.

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Summer reads

Books for your vacation, staycation or lazy weekend

By Lisa Parsons lparkers@hippopress.com

There's no such thing as a beach read. People read on the beach whatever they would read anywhere else.

But the phrase "beach read," even if it came from a marketing department somewhere, has caught on. So what's it mean to you? What makes a read your beach read? Does it have to be hot and sweaty like summer? Breezy and light to cool you off? So absorbing you won't notice if a seagull poops on your head, or something you can read in bits and pieces without losing your place? Is it escapist, a book that takes your mind on vacation? Or enlightening, to go along with the meditative sound of ocean waves? Or psychologically insightful, to enhance your people-watching?

A beach read can be any of these things and more. I asked southern New Hampshire's librarians and booksellers to suggest some good titles for this summer, and in these lists you're sure to find something that appeals to you. Grab some of these titles and toss them in your tote bag with the towels and Frisbees. If the book comes home with sand between its pages and sunscreen smeared on its cover, it's a beach read.

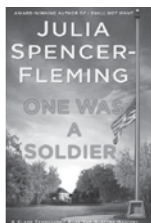
Suspense and mystery



You won't be surprised to see Stieg Larsson's trilogy on everyone's summer reading list — even though it was also on everyone's winter reading list. (Who has time?) The third book is *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, and as Dee Santoso of Manchester City Library put it, "once you get involved in the first novel [*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*], you'll be hooked! I'm torn between not wanting to stop reading them and also not wanting the story to end!"



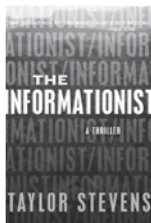
Santoso also likes Janet Evanovich, whom she calls "one of my favorite summer reading authors ... because her stories are perfect light, funny reading for those summer scorcher days." Meryle Zusman of Derry Public Library recommends the newest book in Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series, *Smokin' Seventeen*, saying, "yay, Stephanie Plum, bounty hunter!" Start with *One for the Money* and work your way up to *Seventeen*, or jump in wherever and it'll still make sense. "The characters and the situations in Evanovich's novels can be laughing-out-loud funny!," Santoso wrote. Manchester City Library director Denise van Zanten also has *Smokin' Seventeen* on her to-read list.



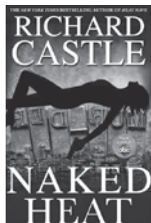
Mathew Bose of Hooksett Public Library recommends "Reverend Clare Fergusson mysteries by Julia Spencer Fleming, starting with *In the Bleak Midwinter* and ending with her latest, *One Was a Soldier*." The author was recently at Water Street Bookstore in Exeter on book tour. She was born in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and lives in Maine.



Speaking of bleak winters (are people trying to mentally cool down from the summer heat?) and Stieg Larsson, Sarah Basbas of Manchester's West Branch Library points to "*The Troubled Man* by Henning Mankell — he's a Swedish mystery writer who should appeal to people who like Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*."

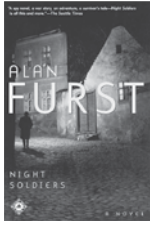


And another if-you-like-Larsson choice, this one from Kendall Ann Koladish of Londonderry's Leach Library, is "Taylor Stevens' *The Informationist*: A fast-paced, thrill ride of a novel, this debut is the start of a series featuring Vanessa Munroe, an 'informationist' who gathers knowledge and information from developing countries for high-paying clients. Her latest job involves finding the 18-year-old daughter of a Texas oil billionaire who went missing four years ago while vacationing in Cameroon, an area Munroe knows well from her youth. This page-turner will find a welcome audience in those who enjoyed Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy."

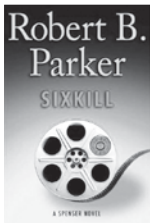


Christine Sharbrough of Derry Public Library recommends "*Naked Heat* by Richard Castle: fans of the television show [*Castle*] will enjoy this book. Quick-moving action and dialog

mirrors the show's cast banter."



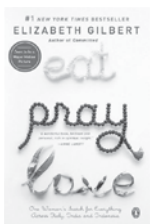
Bose recommends the *Night Soldiers* series by Allen Furst, which he described as "a series of World War II thrillers that take place in the spy world. Furst is excellent at exploring the turmoil of emotions caused by war. You will be sweating from the plot twists and historical espionage instead of the humidity."



And if you want an old reliable, Santoso says, "For those folks who enjoy a good mystery, I always recommend anything by Robert B. Parker. His novels were the basis for *Spenser for Hire* ... on TV starring Robert Ulrich." She calls them "well written and engaging" and says "I don't have a favorite title of his, I enjoyed all of them!" *Sixkill* was released in May and is the last Spenser novel to be completed by Parker — #39 in the series.

Nonfiction

Think you can handle the truth? Want to brush up your knowledge base while you tan?



"For those who enjoy non-fiction, my current favorite is *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything across Italy, India and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert," Santoso said. "Reading the book first will also make the movie far more enjoyable. Her travels and her soul-searching exploits are presented in a very conversational and light manner even though the topics and issues she's dealing with are not."

The bibliophiles

Thanks go to the following book experts for their suggestions:

Deb Baker is events coordinator at Gibson's Bookstore.

Sarah Basbas is branch manager of West Manchester Library.

Mathew Bose is the reference & adult services librarian at Hooksett Public Library.

Carol Luers Eyman is the outreach and community services coordinator at Nashua Public Library.

Karrie Hanson works at MainStreet Book-Ends of Warner.

Sarah Hydorn is head of children's services at Amherst Town Library.

Kendall Ann Koladish is a public services librarian at Londonderry Leach Library.

Dee Santoso is deputy director of Manchester City Library.

Christine Sharbrough is a reference librarian at Derry Public Library.

Sophie Smith is a reference librarian at Nashua Public Library.

Margaret M. Talcott is associate producer of Writers on a New England Stage and Writers in the Loft at The Music Hall in Portsmouth.

Denise M. van Zanten is the director of the Manchester City Library.

Ruslyn Vear is head of reference and adult programming at Amherst Town Library.

Meryle Zusman is communications coordinator at Derry Public Library.

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More recommendations for young readers

Ladybug award nominees:

City Dog, Country Frog, by Mo Willems and John J. Muth;

Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys, by Bob Raczka and Peter H. Reynolds;

Hibernation Station, by Michelle Meadows and Kurt Cyrus;

In the Wild, by David Elliott and Holly Meade;

Interrupting Chicken, by David Ezra Stein;

Memoirs of a Goldfish, by Devin Scillian and Tim Bowers;

One, by Kathryn Otoshi;

Rubia and the Three Osos, by Susan Middleton Elya and Melissa Sweet;

The Cow Loves Cookies, by Karma Wilson and Marcellus Hall;

Ugly Pie, by Lisa Wheeler and Heather Solomon.

See www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/ladybug.html.

Great Stone Face award nominees:

Big Nate in a Class by Himself, by Lincoln Peirce;

Cosmic, by Frank Cottrell Boyce;

Guinea Dog, by Patrick Jennings;

Masters of Disaster, by Gary Paulsen;

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda, by Tom Angleberger, and

We the Children, by Andrew Clements, and 19 others.

Visit <http://nhlibrarians.org/chilis/gsf/>.

Isinglass award nominees:

Dead Boys, by Royce Buckingham,

Clockwork Angel, by Cassandra Clare,

Heist Society, by Ally Carter,

Matched, by Ally Condie,

Hacking Timbuktu, by Stephen Davies,

Payback Time, by Carl Deuker,

Wereling, by Steve Feasey,

Incarceron, by Catherine Fisher,

Uprising, by Margaret Peterson Haddix,

Girl, Stolen, by April Henry,

Great Wide Sea, by Madaline Herlong,

Iron King, by Julie Kagawa,

I Am Number Four, by Pittacus Lore,

Rot & Ruin, by Jonathan Maberry,

Virals, by Kathy Reichs,

Revolver, by Marcus Sedgwick,

Letters from Wolfie, by Patti Sherlock,

Scrawl, by Mark Shulman,

Notes from the Midnight Driver, by Jordan Sonnenblick,

Running Dream, by Wendelin Van Draanen

See www.metrocast.net/~blibrary/tz_isinglassinterum.html.

Flume award nominees:

Anna and the French Kiss, by Stephanie Perkins,

Clockwork Angel, by Cassandra Clare,

Dark Water, by Laura McNeal,

Dash and Lily's Book of Dares, by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan,

The Demon's Lexicon, by Sarah Rees Brennan,

Eon: Dragoneye Reborn, by Alison Goodman,

Impossible, by Nancy Werlin,

Marcelo in the Real World, by Francisco X. Stork,

Nightshade, by Andrea Cremer,

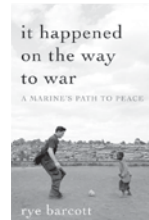
Revolution, by Jennifer Donnelly,

Ship Breaker, by Paolo Bacigalupi,

When the Game Was Ours, by Larry Bird & Earvin Magic Johnson

Will Grayson, Will Grayson, by John Green & David Levithan.

See www.nashua.lib.nh.us/YALS/Flume.htm.



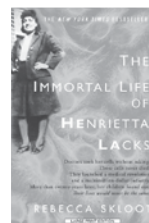
“In nonfiction, I recommend Rye Barcott’s *It Happened on the Way to War*, which I finished last week,” wrote Deb Baker, events coordinator at Gibson’s Bookstore, not long after the author had visited Gibson’s on book tour. The book is “good for teens, college students, and anyone who is feeling sad about the *Three Cups of Tea* scandal,” she wrote.



Continuing in a travel-the-world frame of mind, try *A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World* by Tony Horwitz. “Horwitz travels to important historical locales to provide an entertaining and enlightening look at American history. Recommended for all travel readers, history buffs and anyone that enjoys learning while laughing,” Bose wrote. Closer to home, Bose also likes *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*, by Tom Wessels, about which he wrote, “This fascinating book will teach you how to decipher clues in the forest that reveal the history of a forested landscape. Learn interesting facts about our local history and the forest ecosystem. A walk in the woods will never be the same!”



Nor will a walk on the moon if you read the latest from Ben Mezrich, who’s coming to the Music Hall in Portsmouth in July. “This guy is HOT. He wrote the book on which the movie *The Social Network* is based. All the rage,” wrote Margaret Talcott, associate producer of Writers on a New England State for The Music Hall. His new book, *Sex on the Moon*, comes out July 8. “I personally would suggest Tina Fey’s *Bossypants* as well. People are loving it,” Talcott wrote.



Carol Luers Eyman, community services coordinator at Nashua Public Library, recently got smarter in two ways by reading some nonfiction recently: she learned about biology, and she learned the ways of digital literature. “I just finished *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot,” she wrote. “It was my first e-book! I learned how to search through the book (when I read about a person and couldn’t remember who it was) and look up words in the dictionary, although I didn’t have to do that often: It’s a very accessible story of how Henrietta’s cells have been used for scientific research since she died in the 1950s, her family’s reaction to that, and the ethics of using them.” Van Zanten of Manchester also recommended Skloot’s book. According to www.rebeccaskloot.com, it was named by more than 60 critics as one of the best books of 2010. (The website is worth checking out for multimedia features and info about the foundation Skloot set up to contribute to Lacks’ family.)



Baker noted she is “looking forward to reading Melissa Fay Greene’s latest book, *No Biking in the House Without a Helmet*.” It’s the never-a-dull-moment story of an Atlanta couple who

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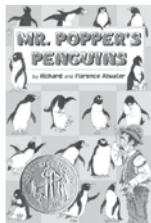
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At this point let me put in a vote for *The Wave-Watcher's Companion: Ocean Waves, Stadium Waves, and all the Rest of Life's Undulations*, by Gavin Pretor-Pinney, because last summer I got mesmerized by learning from it, while I was at the ocean, that scientists have detected a wave hundreds, thousands?, of miles away from where it started, like it starts at Alaska with 20-foot swells and they can follow the same wave all the way to, I don't know, Indonesia where it's got 2-millimeter peaks and it's still going. I paraphrase. You get the idea. Cool book. It's newly out in paperback. I also like, for summertime, *As They See 'Em: A Fan's Travels in the Land of Umpires*, by Bruce Weber, which is quite an interesting read and changed how I watch baseball more than any other book has.

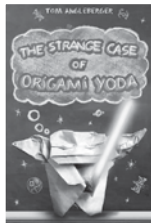
Books for kids



As for expert recommendations, let's start with the nominees for the various New Hampshire State Library Association book awards. Winners are selected by young readers voting at libraries and schools.

"These are wonderful resources for finding some really great books for summer reading," wrote Sarah Hydorn, head of children's services at Amherst Town Library. "The lists are compiled by librarians from around the state, taking into account the suggestions and opinions they get from students of all ages. There's a great variety of titles to appeal to a wide range of readers."

For grades K through 3, New Hampshire has the Ladybug book award. Voting will take place in November and there are 10 nominees, all published in 2010 (see sidebar).

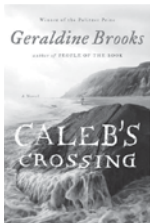


For grades 7 and 8, there are 20 nominees for the Isinglass award, to be voted on next April; the full list is online. The 2011 winner was *The Maze Runner*, by James Dashner,

Finally, high school students vote for the Flume book award, whose list of 13 nominees includes *Dash and Lily's Book of Dares*, by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan, and *Marcelo in the Real World*, by Francisco X. Stork.

Beyond the State Library award nominees, Mathew Bose recommends the **Lighthouse Family series** by Cynthia Rylant: “Read this series aloud to your whole family and fall in love with Pandora, the cat who lives in a lighthouse, Seabold, the dog whose ship wrecks on her shore, and the trio of mice children they adopt together,” the Hooksett librarian wrote.


General fiction



Where to begin? Two local bibliophiles mentioned ***Caleb's Crossing***, by Geraldine Brooks, which has been on lots of bestseller lists since its May release, and three mentioned books by Lisa See.

“Known for her elegant writing and rich historic detail, Brooks does not disappoint in [*Caleb’s Crossing*],” Koladish wrote, and Basbas said she “loved” Brooks’ previous novel, *Year of Wonders*, and “can’t wait for this one.” It is, as Koladish said, “Based loosely on the true account of a Wampanoag Indian who became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard.”

Zusman recommends *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, calling it a “wonderful, moving story of women’s relationships.” (It’s also going to be a movie.)



Koladish likes See's *Dreams of Joy*: "This follow-up to *Shanghai Girls* features the daughter of Pearl, one of the sisters from the first novel. Raised in Los Angeles, Joy discovers the truth about her parentage and leaves for China to find her father. She soon discovers more than she anticipated as she becomes swept up in the turmoil of the country's changes brought about by Mao. Her mother, knowing the dangers from which she herself fled, must leave her life in America to track down her daughter. Readers who wondered what happened to Pearl and May Chin will be pleased to receive this sequel, while those who pick this book up first will be inspired to read the beginning of the story."

"When I finish reading Larson's tale,

Beach comics



A trip to the comic store can be perfect preparation for a trip to the beach. After all, what's more bubblegum than the latest Betty & Veronica or Archie comic, or more sand-in-your-bikini than a new Simpsons comic? For the nostalgic, an old Superman, and for the literary, Marvel Comics' five-volume comic-book adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. And, for those who are torn between the movie theater and the beach, don't forget *Thor* and *X-Men* and *Green Lantern* are all available in comic-book form. Plus, comics fit easily in a beach bag, hardly weigh anything, and stay open when you put them down.

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I'm planning on reading *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See," wrote Santos.



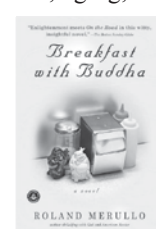
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen, recently made into a film starring Robert Pattinson, was recommended by both Meryle Zusman of Derry and Karrie Hanson of MainStreet BookEnds. "I'm most excited to RE-recommend *Water for Elephants*," Hanson wrote, "...because it is one of the best I've ever read. This mixture of historical research about real circuses and the thrill of forbidden love sucks you in and doesn't let you go until you're crying and wishing you had your very own elephant."



Also available to inspire tears, "*The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry is a beautifully haunting local tale of a woman who comes home to Salem, Mass., to discover and solve a spooky secret about her family and herself," Hanson wrote. "The use of real-life and other-worldly magic that Barry uses reminds me strongly of Alice Hoffman's style. This book is one that will keep you guessing, keep you hooked, and make you cry."



For those who would rather laugh, "Jonathan Tropper's books are all great for vacation, dealing with the good, bad, and dysfunctional parts of life with incredible humor that will have you laughing out loud; my favorites are *This is Where I Leave You* and *Plan B*," said Sophie Smith, a Nashua Public Library reference librarian. And Meryle Zusman likes "anything by Nora Ephron — funny, easy-to-read looks at true life, aging, women."



At Amherst Town Library, Ruslyn Vear gave the nod to the "delightful" novel *Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo, in which, as she put it, "Two unlikely travel companions...talk about life and live it fully in the present" on a "laugh-out-loud 'road trip' cross country."

Judging by the cover...

...these are nothing if not beach reads. If setting is all you need, try these new releases in fiction.

- *Folly Beach: A Lowcountry Tale*, by Dorothea Benton Frank: "Cate never thought she'd wind up in this tiny cottage named the Porgy House on this breathtakingly lovely strip of coast."
- *Summer Rental*, by Mary Kay Andrews: "It was not an auspicious beginning for a vacation, let alone for a new life."
- *Heat Wave*, by Nancy Thayer: "The solution is right at Carley's front door: transforming her expensive, expansive [Nantucket] house into a bed-and-breakfast."
- *Ten Beach Road*, by Wendy Wax: "Madeline, Avery and Nikki...each wake up one morning to discover their life savings have vanished...leaving them with nothing but co-ownership of a ramshackle beachfront house."
- *Fun with Dude and Betty*, by Lisa Pliscou and Tom Dunne: "For beach boys and surfer girls of all ages." Like Dick & Jane, but with surfer dudes.



Vear also said she likes "*Swim Back to Me* by Ann Packer: a collection of two novellas and four short stories that explore the human emotional landscape in well-crafted style."

Carol Luers Eyman, she of the Rebecca Skloot e-book, wrote, "The other books I'm touting now are any by Elisabeth Strout: a lot of people have read *Olive Kitteridge* because it won the Pulitzer, but *Amy and Isabelle* and *Abide With Me* are also excellent stories with interesting characters, both set in New England in the 1950s and 1960s."

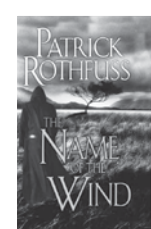


Baker, of Gibson's recently finished reading *The Borrower*, a debut novel from Rebecca Makkai. "Lucy, a children's librarian, and Ian, a 10-year-old library regular, have an unlikely adventure when Ian runs away from home and they accidentally embark on a road trip together," Baker wrote. "A quirky story, rich with memorable characters, *The Borrower* combines humor, social commentary, and plenty of references to favorite children's books. ...A fun read, and an interesting look at the kaleidoscope of contemporary American culture."

Smith recommends Jennifer Egan's award-winning *A Visit from the Goon Squad* as "a great read, both literary and hard to put down!" and Emily Giffin's *Something Borrowed*.



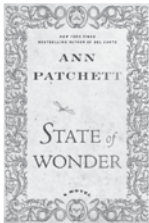
"I always recommend Alice Hoffman's books as great summer reads," Hanson wrote. "Her combination of real life, everyday people and magic leaves you wondering if the supernatural really does exist. I would most strongly recommend *Blackbird House*. It's a quick beach read about a house that stands for generations and teaches each person who lives there how to love in a different way." Hanson also said that "*Girls in Trucks* by Katie Crouch is a MUST"—but beware that it "drags you through a horribly beautiful life of confusion and life lessons." And her number-one pick? "My favorite of all time and for ALL ages is *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The magic and the mayhem of this beloved tale leaves you with a warm feeling and a particular love of your own family and the magic that you have created throughout all your memories so far."



For those with an eye toward fantasy, Bose of Hooksett suggested the *Kingkiller Chronicles* series by Patrick Rothfuss. "Rothfuss is a new fantasy writer similar to Terry Brooks, Neil Gaiman or David Eddings," he wrote. "You'll be holding this book above your head and reading while you swim."

Looking toward the paranormal, Bose noted the *Mercedes Thompson* series by Patricia Briggs: "Mercy is a strong and witty mechanic who is thrown into the world of werewolves, vampires, and other things that go bump in the night. Read these and you'll be instantly addicted to

Patricia Brigg's vivid storytelling." Speaking of vampires, Zusman suggested *Dead Reckoning* by Charlaine Harris, the newest in the True Blood series.

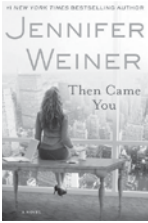


Back in the real-er world, there was praise for best-sellers *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, which is "getting great reviews," Basbas noted, and *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, a "moving story of racial inequality in the 1950s — also a movie!," Zusman said. Sharbrough liked *The Girl in the Green Raincoat* by Laura Lippman, where "confined to bed rest with pre-eclampsia, Tess cannot resist a Jimmy Stewart-esque look at the neighbors through her binoculars...especially when one disappears."



Bose also mentioned two authors whose work you'll find in the Young Adult section of the store but who appeal to adults as well: "Lauren Oliver's second novel [*Delirium*] takes you into a world where love is treated as a disease, and once you're treated, you can live a safe and happy life. Or so Lena thought. Until she fell in love," he wrote, and Anthony Horowitz's "fast-paced and suspenseful" *Alex Rider series* "is excellent for both teens and adults. Teenager Alex Rider carries on the family tradition and thwarts the plans of evil villains for the British intelligence service. Your white knuckles will stand out from your tan while reading these books on the beach!"

Coming soon



Then Came You, by Jennifer Weiner, due out on July 11, will undoubtedly be a popular summer read at least among the chick-lit set. In nonfiction, keep an eye out for *The Secret Power of Middle Children: How Middleborns Can Harness Their Unexpected and Remarkable Abilities*, by Catherine Salmon, Ph.D., and Katrin Schumann, due on Aug. 4 — it could be good reading while you watch over the kids at the beach or relate to your siblings at the vacation house — and *Super Mario: How Nintendo Conquered America*, by Jeff Ryan, due also on Aug. 4, which you can read while your children sit indoors glued to a screen.



For kids, *Big Nate on a Roll*, the latest compilation of comic strips about the (mis)adventures of an 11-year-old from Lincoln Peirce (who grew up in New Hampshire), comes out Aug. 16.

On the radio

Owners Michael Herrmann of Gibson's in Concord and Dan Chartrand of Water Street Bookstore in Exeter go on *The Exchange* with Laura Knoy on New Hampshire Public Radio every year in June to recommend summer reads. Look for their 2011 list online at www.nhpr.org/exchange.

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2011, AND BEYOND



Monday, July 4

Looking to get into the 4th of July spirit? New Boston's 80th annual 4th of July celebration begins at 10 a.m. when the parade steps off at the top of High Street. The parade will include bikers from Little People's Depot Preschool, marching bands, antique cars, fire trucks, clowns, horses and more. The day also includes events at the 4H Youth Center grounds including the firing of the Molly Stark Cannon, a chicken barbecue, horse pulling competition, mud volleyball tournament and fiddlers' contest. At 4 p.m. TMud & the Spuds Bluegrass Band performs, at 6 p.m. it's the Partners' Pie Eating Contest, and at 7 p.m. is New Boston Idol Karaoke. All-day entrance to the grounds is \$5 per person (children under 12 free — re-entry permitted); entrance for evening-only activities is \$5 per car after 6 p.m. Food vendors are onsite throughout the event. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Bonfire and fireworks are weather and conditions permitting; no rain date. For information e-mail newboston4thofjuly@gmail.com.



Thursday, June 30

The Wizard of Oz will be performed Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 21 at the Prescott Park Arts Festival (436-2848, www.prescottpark.org). Rain postponed the first performance last Friday but, weather willing, the show and season-opening festivities are scheduled 7 p.m. tonight. (Information about rain cancellations and venue changes is posted on the Festival's Facebook page and Twitter account, @PrescottPark.)



Thursday, June 30

Hillcat Theatre at Hillsboro-Deering Middle School, 6 Hillcat Drive, Hillsborough, presents "Fractured Fairytales" beginning at 7 p.m. A cast of 20 young people under the direction of Jenn Mayfield has spent the week in a theater camp preparing these modern looks at traditional stories for young people and families. Admission is by donation.



Tuesday, July 5

Cinderella is performed as part of the Summer Children's Series 2011 at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, www.palacetheatre.org, 668-5588, at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$6. (The show will also be performed tomorrow, Wednesday, July 6, at 10 a.m.)



Tuesday, July 5

Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, www.gibsonsbookstore.com, is hosting Linda and Martha Greenlaw, authors of *The Maine Summers Cookbook*, at O Steaks and Seafood, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, www.magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The event will feature dishes from the cookbook prepared by O's chefs.

Free: Art receptions

The Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, hosts a free opening reception for "A Common Peace: New Hampshire Potters Guild Biennial Exhibition" on Friday, July 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibit will run July 1 through Aug. 27 at the Arts Center. Call 924-7676 or visit www.sharonarts.org. Also on Friday, July 1, the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery in Portsmouth hosts a free reception for "The Best of the Best" exhibit from 5 to 8 p.m. The exhibit showcases works in all media by members of the New Hampshire Art Association through Thursday, Aug. 26.

Cheap(er): Discovery

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center just off Interstate 93 in Concord (2 Institute Drive) is lowering ticket prices beginning July 1. Exhibit gallery admission will change to \$9 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$6 for children 3-12. Also this summer, the Center is introducing a new traveling exhibit and new 3-D planetarium movies. See www.starhop.com.

Splurge: Nights in White Satin

Tickets, priced at \$65, \$55 and \$45, went on sale June 24 for An Evening with the Moody Blues on Monday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St. in Manchester, www.verizonwirelessarena.com, 644-5000. Tickets can be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet, by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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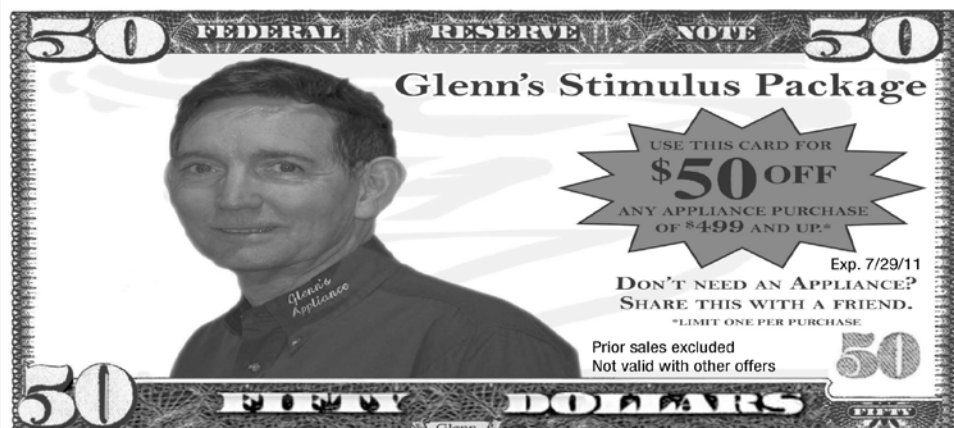
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Moving art

Currier hosts an all-video exhibit

by Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Since the 1960s, video has become established as an artistic medium. Now, for the first time ever, the Currier Museum of Art will devote an entire exhibit to this visual art.

Throughout the history of art, technology has pushed experimentation, said Nina Bozicnik, assistant curator at the Currier Museum of Art. In the mid-19th century, the invention of pre-mixed paints allowed artists to work more in the natural environment, which led to plein air painting, a practice still popular today.

Something similar occurred with video art, which exploded into the art world in the late 1960s when the Sony Corporation released the Portapak, an accessible piece of equipment that captured moving images. Prior to this, to record video was expensive and done primarily in the commercial and film industry. It was also done by way of 8- or 16-millimeter film and did not have the immediate playback feature that video provided. This relatively affordable technology became available at the same time that avant garde performance art and the rising media culture were coming into vogue. Video art should not be confused with experimental or art house cinema. It is its own entity entirely.

“Shifting Terrain: Landscape Video” opens July 2 and will feature moving-image artworks by seven artists (Louisa Conrad, Julia Hechtman, Liz Nofziger, Daniel Phillips, Jeannie Simms, Suara Welitoff and Mary Ellen Strom), all with ties to New England, as the exhibit is part of the museum’s Spotlight

New England Artist Series, which showcases early- and mid-career artists in the area. Some of these works will be conventional — images fired straight from a projector. Others show how far art video has come.

Strom’s installations “Dead Standing” and “Selva Oscura: Drawing of Dead Standing” include two perpendicular 15-foot-wide projections. One shows footage of a pine forest in Montana that has been ravished by beetles, while the other is of Strom making a charcoal drawing, from memory, of the same forest. In the installation there will also be a bench made of pine from the forest.

In Nofziger’s “Pore” visitors will view through a small peep hole that will show live video of what is happening on the Manchester street beyond the walls of the museum. This is a contemporary take on the viewing glass, which is common in scenic places around the world.

“These installations show the variety of ways we can visually, physically and auditorially experience these work,” Bozicnik said.

Bozicnik said the Currier’s managers have previously hosted video installations but never an entire exhibit in which they transformed one of the main galleries. Before settling on a theme, Bozicnik visited studios and conferred with her peers about which artists she should know. When she decided on the landscape theme it became obvious which artists the museum should showcase.

As this may be many visitors’ first exposure to video art, Bozicnik wanted to make sure there was a wide range of approaches to subject and the medium. For example, the work of Welitoff features images of industrial



“Dead Standing” and “Selva Oscura: Drawing of Dead Standing” by Mary Ellen Strom. Courtesy of the Artist and Alexander Gray Associates, New York City.

water-cooling towers, which could be found on nuclear power facilities, while Simms juxtaposes expansive desert shots with manicured lawns in housing developments.

While there are differences between the works, they are unified by the theme. Bozicnik said she chose the landscape theme because it was something that would resonate with the museum’s audience. It was important for the audience to be familiar with the theme (landscape paintings are very popular in New Hampshire) so they would have a base on which to ground their reactions. She also hoped it would expand upon the traditional notions of landscape art.

Since so many local artists create “static images” (works that don’t move — Bozicnik put “static” in quotes because some paintings, sculptures, etc. do convey movement), having these works of contemporary technology will allow viewers to see how the two modes can convey meaning on a similar subject in different ways. Bozicnik said she hoped this could create a discussion and lead artists to new works.

“I can’t comment [on whether] more artists are doing video art,” Bozicnik said. “But I can say it is now a well-established tool.”

She said such exhibits are seen in museums all around the world and some of the bigger museums have permanent collections and

media spaces to showcase art using different technologies. Bozicnik said video art is an art form that, like technology itself, is constantly changing. From its beginning with VHS video tapes, it has evolved to digital work on computers.

“It [video art] has a bright future,” Bozicnik said.

Bozicnik encourages art fans to check out the exhibit. There seems to be a trend in local art (recent exhibits at the Portsmouth Museum of Art and the Sharon Arts Gallery were along the same lines) to move away from the conventional experience of simply viewing pieces from a respectable distance. Bozicnik said this exhibit will allow viewers to engage with the art not only with their eyes but with their bodies and ears.

“It will also elicit a different way to look and think about landscape,” Bozicnik said.

Shifting Terrain: Landscape Video

When: July 2 through Sept. 18; Gallery hours are Sunday, Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (free admission 10 a.m.-noon)

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, www.currier.org, 669-6144

Tickets: \$10 (seniors \$9, students \$8, children under 18 free)

20 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

24 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

25 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see www.currier.org for tickets.

Gallery openings and events

• **13 POINTS OF VIEW** Multi-artist exhibit on display through Aug. 6 at the Brush Art Gallery and Studios, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Thurs., June 30, 5-8 p.m. Call 978-459-8216.

• **ART & LITERATURE** Art show related to Children’s summer program, Stories from Around the World, on Thurs., June 30, 4-6 p.m. at the George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Call 886-6030.

• **FLOWERS INTERPRETED** Women’s Caucus for Art/NH Chapter exhibit will be held through July 30 at the Bedford Public Library, 3 Meeting-

house Road, Bedford. There will be an opening reception on Thurs., June 30, 5-7 p.m. Visit www.wcanh.org.

• **A COMMON PEACE:** New Hampshire Potters Guild Biennial Exhibition will run July 1 through Aug. 27 at the Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. There will be an opening reception on Fri., July 1, 5-7 p.m. Call 924-7676 or visit www.sharonarts.org.

• **THE BEST OF THE BEST** works in all media by members of the NH Art Association on display at the association’s Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery in Portsmouth Wed., June 29, through Thurs., Aug. 26. A reception is Fri., July 1, from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **INSIDE OUTSIDE** Exhibit will be held Wed., July 6, at the Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, 69 Maple St., Center Sandwich. Visit www.patricialaddcarega.com or call 284-7728.

• **CHILDREN’S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS’ ART EXHIBIT** will be held July 8 through Sept. 4 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Thurs., July 7, 5-8 p.m. There will be special events on Wednesdays, July 13, July 20, July

27, Aug. 10, Aug. 17, and Aug. 24. Call 226-2046 or visit www.themillbrookgallery.com.

• **SHIFTING TERRAIN:** Landscape Video on display July 2 through Sept. 18 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. There will be an artist reception on Thurs., July 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **FOUR AND FOUR** An exhibit of art and music July 8 through July 31 at the Steez Gallery, 85 W. Pearl St., Nashua. There will be an opening reception on Fri., July 8, 6-8 p.m. Visit www.thesteezgallery.com or call 718-8394.

• **OAXACA: IMAGES AND ECHOES** will be on display through July 24 at the Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Avenue, Lowell, MA. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Fri., July 8, 6-9 p.m. Visit www.theloadingdockgallery.com or call 978-349-8069.

• **THE COLORS OF LIFE** Work of Jeanne LaChance and Cheryl Vratnesen will be on display through July 28 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-

5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit www.eastcolony.com. There will be an opening reception on Fri., July 8, 4 to 7 p.m.

• **MARK AND KATHLEEN FRANK** Will be the July artists of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. There will be a reception on Sat., July 9, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **ECOLOGY** 17th Annual Members’ Exhibit will be held July 12 through July 30, noon-5 p.m. at 119 Gallery, 119 Chelmsford St., Lowell, MA. Visit www.119gallery.org.

• **GARDEN PARTY** will be held on Wed., July 13, 5-8 p.m. at Fuller Gardens, 10 Willow Ave., North Hampton. Tickets cost \$20. Visit www.fullergardens.org or call 929-6955.

• **BILL WHITMAN** Photographs will be on display July 14 through Aug. 26 in the Carolyn Jenkins Gallery at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord. There will be an artist’s reception on Thurs., July 14, 5-7 p.m. Call 225-3932 or visit www.kimballjenkins.com.

In the galleries

• **14th ANNUAL OUTDOOR**

In a gallery near you



The Franks in Exeter

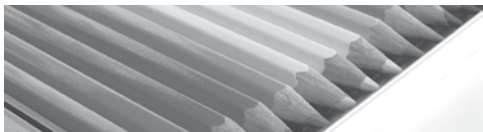
Mark and Kathleen Frank of Renaissance Glassworks in Nashua are the July artists of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. The Franks create both traditional and contemporary stained glass art pieces and have been doing so for three decades. They also restore vintage stained glass pieces. For the past two decades Renaissance Glassworks has operated a full-service stained glass studio in southern New Hampshire. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Saturday, July 9, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call 778-8282. Work of Mark and Kathleen Frank. Courtesy photo.

SCULPTURE EXHIBIT will be held through Oct. 16 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046 or visit www.themillbrookgallery.com.

• **2011 SENIOR B.A. & B.F.A. EXHIBITION & 2011 M.F.A. THESIS EXHIBITION** will be on exhibit at the Museum of Art at UNH-Durham. Call 862-3712 or visit www.unh.edu/moa.

• **ART IN NATURE** Work of multiple artists including Andy Moerlein will be on display through Nov. 15 at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekends. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for seniors and students). Call 978-456-3924 or visit www.fruitlands.org.

• **A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN**



Winners of the New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts awards. Courtesy photo.

local color

NH Citizens for the Arts. The new budget cycle begins July 1. Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod said it was good news that the Committee of Conference agreed that eliminating the department didn't make sense; however, he said such cuts, which will go through the entire department and will mean the elimination of jobs, will be painful and difficult to make. He said he was in the process of making such decisions. He said the objective is to keep the infrastructure together and provide services for a lot of people. Visit www.nh.gov/nhculture.

• Local businesses support the arts:

Last month the New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts held its award gala in Manchester and recognized four local businesses for their patronage of the arts. Two of these businesses, Margaritas Mexican Restaurant and Fin Brand Positioning, are located on the seacoast. Fin Brand Positioning helped create a visual identity for the Portsmouth Museum of Art, while Margaritas Mexican Restaurant provided the food for the Portsmouth Music and Arts Center's annual spring fund raiser. The other winners were Bellwether Community Credit Union, which actively supports the Palace Theatre, and New Hampshire Magazine, which helped launch the New Hampshire Theatre Awards. Each winner received a framed painting by Concord artist Melissa Miller. Call 224-8300 or visit www.nhbca.com.

—Adam Coughlin

Multi-artist exhibit through October 15 at The Red Door Pottery Studio and Gallery Shop, 44 Government St., Kittery, ME. Call 207-439-5671 or visit www.reddoorpottery.com.

• **BLEW** Works by Deb Todd Wheeler on display through July 4 at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint-Gaudens Road, Cornish. Visit www.sgnhs.org.

• **CAGED IN** Works of Marissa Girard will be on display through July 23 at the Framers Market, 1301 Elm St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 668-6989.

• **CULTURAL DIVERSITY:** The Art of Immigrants in the New Manchester. Exhibit will be on display through June as part of Art On the Wall @ City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Manchester. Visit manchester-arts.org.

• **DANIEL BEAUVAIS** Work will be on display through June 30 at the Steez Gallery, 85 W. Pearl St., Nashua. Visit www.thesteegallery.com or call 718-8394.

• **DEGENERATE IMPRESSIONISM** Work of Matthew Grubb will be on display through July 1 at the McLaughlin-Hills Gallery in Portsmouth. Call 319-8306 or visit www.mclaughlin-hillsgallery.com.

• **EARL SCHOFIELD** Featured artist for June at the Sharon Arts Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 924-2787 or visit www.earlschofield.com.

• **EXPERIMENTS IN RESTRAINT:** Books Various Bound. The work of Samuel Feinstein will be on display through June

In a gallery near you



Four artists on display

The Steez Gallery, 85 W. Pearl St., Nashua, prides itself on introducing new and young artists who are creating alternative works to the Granite State art scene. The gallery's next exhibit, "Four and Four," which runs July 8 through July 30, will feature the works of four artists: Sam Paolini, Courtney Elwell, James Willette (see more about him on page 22) and Sara Richard. Paolini previously attended Mass Art but currently runs a free artistic and musical promotional magazine titled "Wrong Brain." Elwell, who is from Manchester, calls herself a nomadic artist. Richard is a graduate of Columbus College of Art and Design for illustration. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, July 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. The band The Awkward Robot will perform. Visit www.thesteegallery.com.

at The Studio, 84 Union Ave., Laco-
nia. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10-3 p.m. Call 455-8008.

• **FANTASY FICTION AND FABLES** Exhibit will be on display through July 2 at 119 Gallery, 119 Chlemsford St., Lowell, Mass. Visit www.119gallery.org or call 978-452-8138.

• **FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING** Multi-artist exhibit at the Thorne Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Thursday, noon-5 p.m., Friday, 3-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Call 358-2720 or

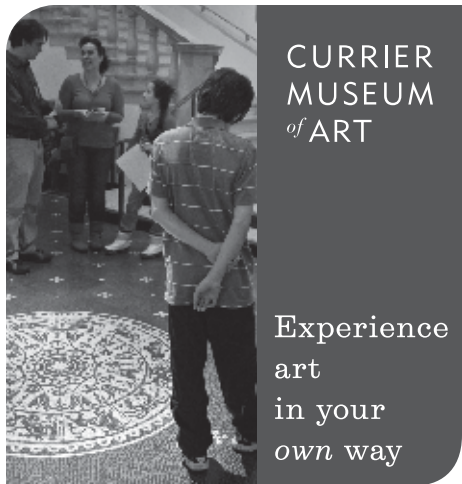
visit www.keene.edu/tsag.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FUSION OF COLOR, FORM AND LIGHT** Work of Lauren Chuslo-Shur will be on display June and July at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit www.seacoastartist.org.

• **GATEWAY GALLERY** Multi-artist exhibit on display through July 29 at Great Bay Community College, 20 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth. Call 427-7641 or visit www.greatbay.edu.

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ART

New on the art scene

NHIA senior joins Nashua exhibit

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

For James Willette of Milford, art is a way of capturing a viewpoint and sharing it with the world. What makes Willette's art unique is that his viewpoint challenges the way viewers look at their surroundings.

At the Steez Gallery in Nashua, Willette will be displaying a series he's been working on that deals with the abstraction of marbles and cardboard tubes. Photographs of cardboard tubes and marbles doesn't necessarily seem like fine art. But Willette plays with the point of view of these objects, making viewers question what they know.

His affinity for art began when he was young.

"As I was growing up I spent a lot of my time outdoors; it wasn't long until I realized just how important it is to take time to enjoy your environment and surroundings," Willette wrote in an e-mail (because he had broken his phone by dropping it in the water and was waiting for a new one).

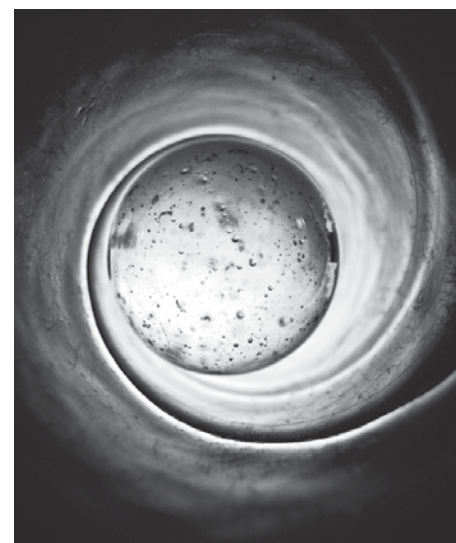
Many kids enjoy nature, but Willette was not satisfied only observing his environment. He wanted to explore it. He said his art is driven by curiosity and exploration and is a balance of impression versus expression. It makes sense that Willette was drawn to photography.

When working on a new piece he doesn't usually plan for something specific. He tries to look at life as creatively as possible and he said that usually leads to good work. And even if it doesn't, he said, at the very least, it makes life more interesting.

Willette is entering his senior year at the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He said his time at the school has been invaluable.

"The choice to attend NHIA was the best thing I could have done for my art," Willette wrote. "... not only did I learn a great deal about the craft of fine art photography, but I learned other fine arts as well. Taking classes ranging from color theory and painting to figure drawing and ceramics ... helped me balance and broaden my horizons artistically, which in turn strengthened my photography."

But like any young artist, Willette will need



"Marble" by James Willette. Courtesy photo.

to sell his work to be able to do what he loves full-time. He said the faculty at the art institute has set a good example of how to be professional and it is one Willette is trying to mimic.

He has found a gallery willing to show his work. The Steez Gallery, 85 W Pearl St., Nashua, prides itself in bringing new, alternative artwork to light. Willette's work will be shown alongside that of three other artists, Sam Paolini, Courtney Elwell and Sara Richard, in an exhibit called "Four and Four."

For Willette the exhibit is testament to the rising art scene in New Hampshire.

"The New Hampshire art scene is really starting to generate some interest," Willette wrote. "There is a lot of amazing work being produced from the New Hampshire art scene right now and there is an increasing number of young artists who are trying to make a name for themselves."

James Willette is one of those artists and his is a name to remember.

Four and Four

When: July 8 through July 31 with an opening reception Friday, July 8, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: The Steez Gallery, 85 W. Pearl St., Nashua, www.thesteezgallery.com, 718-8394

Work will be on display at the Forest Society's Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

• **HILL, TREE AND CLOUD:** Rural Landscapes in Oil by Christopher Volpe will be on display through June 30 at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. Call 465-7721 or visit www.christophervolpe.com.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit www.thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **IT'S ABOUT TIME** Multi-artist exhibit on display through July 22 at Art 3 Gallery, 44 West Brook St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 668-6650 or visit www.art3gallery.com.

• **JASON REIMERS** Work will be displayed through Sept. 30 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Route 101A, Milford. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499.

• **JOHN SCHWIND** Work will be on display through June at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. The event is free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **JUST MY IMAGINATION** Multi artist exhibition through July 15 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2818.

• **LET IT BE SPRING** Multi-artist exhibit on display at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit www.seacoastartist.org.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **MERRIMACK RIVER PAINT-**

ERS work will be displayed through Sept. 6 at the UNH School of Law, 2 White St., Concord. Visit www.mer-rimackriverpainters.com.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, www.verdigrisartisans.com.

• **OUR STORIES IN PICTURES AND WORDS:** Immigration Now and Then on display through Aug 5 at UNH-Manchester, 2nd floor, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 862-3691.

• **PAMELA R. TARBELL SALON EXHIBIT** Works will be on display through July 3 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 226-2046 or visit www.themillbrookgallery.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public

Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PATTERNS AND TEXTURES** Work of photographer Larry Chase will be on display through Aug. 31 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the conference room. Call 224-9945 before visiting to make sure room is not in use. Visit www.forestsociety.org.

• **RECLAIMING THE CURRENT** Work of Robin Luciano Beaty will be on display through Aug. 1 at Three Graces, 105 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-1988.

• **RENDA BROOKS** Work will be on display through June at Me & Ollie's, Market Square, 10 Pleasant St., Portsmouth. Call 436-7777.

• **RON PLANTE** Work will be on display at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, 749 East Industrial Park Dr., Manchester. Hours are Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 627-0005.

• **SCOTT & IAN DUFFY** June artists of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **SENSATIONS OF CHANGE** Work of members of the Hollis Arts Society will be on display June through September at Gallery West Pearl, 100 West Pearl St., Nashua. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., unless a meeting is going on. Call Pat Hurd at 882-1503 or e-mail phurd1503@aol.com.

• **STEVENS HIGH SCHOOLS ART EXHIBIT** will be held through out the summer at Opera House Square in Claremont. Admission is free. Call 542-0064.

• **STREET A.K.A. MUSEUM** Work of international street artists will be on display through Sept. 11 at the Portsmouth Museum of Art, 1 Harbour Place, Portsmouth. Admission is free. Outdoor tours cost \$5. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday until 8 p.m. Call 436-0332.

• **STUDENT ART SHOW** will be held through July 8 at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord. Visit www.kimballjenkins.com or call 225-3932.

• **THE NATURAL WORLD** Work of Pat Hurd and Diane Statkum will be on display through June at Canal Art & Framing, 1 Water St., Nashua. Visit www.canalframing.com or call 886-1459.

• **THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT** Photography by Mike White will be on display through July 16 at the Epsom Public Library, 1606 Dover Road, Epsom. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 736-9920.

• **THE SOLO SHOW** Multi-artist exhibit on display through July 26 at the Soo Rye Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit www.soorye.com.

• **TOM JUDD** June artist of the month at the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. Call 654-2581 or visit www.wiltonlibrarynh.org.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit www.silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **TRIO** Work of John LaPrade, Marisa Dilorio Peters and Wendy Prellwitz will be on display through July 29 at McGowan Fine Art, 10

On stage



The Music Man comes to Epping

Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man* is a tribute to Smalltown U.S.A. and follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold

Hill as he tries to sell the people of River City, Iowa, on music supplies, even though they don't need them and he doesn't know anything about them. Unfortunately for Hill, his plans are foiled when he falls in love with the local librarian. *The Music Man* will be performed July 8 through July 24 at the Leddy Center, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday and Wednesday at 2 p.m. Elaine Gatchell directs and choreographs the show, which stars Michael Coppola as Harold Hill, Jennifer Cardin as Marian, Ralph Twombly as Marcellus, and Steve Koch as Mayor Shinn. Tickets cost \$18 and \$16. Visit www.leddycenter.org or call 679-2781. Michael Coppola and Ralph Twombly. Courtesy photo.

Hills Ave., Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 225-2515 or visit www.mcgowanfineart.com.

• **WATER - BLUE GOLD:** Essential to All Life on Earth will be displayed through Sept. 4 at Gallery 6 at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission fee is required to view the gallery only. Call 742-2002 or visit www.childrens-museum.org.

• **WENDY TURNER** Artist of June at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **WILD AND WARY WAYS** work of Rachel B. Hayes will be on display in the Picture Gallery, 39 Saint Gaudens Road, Cornish. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call 675-2175 or visit www.nps.gov/saga.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street,
Manchester in the Jefferson Mill
Building 666-5999, actingloft.org

• **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691,
actorsingers.org

• **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry,
437-0505, derryarts.org

• **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com

• **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613,
andyssummerplayhouse.org

• **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700

• **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com

• **Bedford Town Hall**
70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford

• **Bedford Youth Performing Company**
155 Route 101, Bedford,
www.bypc.org, 472-3894.

• **Belle Voci**
bellevoci.org, 848-7986

• **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111,
ccanh.com

• **Concord Chorale**
224-0770,

concordchorale.org

• **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793,
www.theaudi.org

• **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org

• **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive,
Manchester, 641-7700,
anselm.edu

• **The Hampstead Theatre**
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr.
Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302,
www.hampsteadstage.org

• **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester,
669-7469, majestictheatre.net

• **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548,
mcmusicschool.org

• **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage Professional Co.**
698 Beech St., Manchester,
627-8787

• **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org

• **Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps**
PO Box 5197, Manchester,
674-7650, www.muchachos.org

• **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org

• **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950

• **Nashua Theatre Guild**
PO Box 137, Nashua,
03061, 320-2530
nashuatheatreguild.org

• **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466

• **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)**
505 Amherst St., Nashua,
428-3544

• **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester,
668-5588, palacetheatre.org

• **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000,
peacockplayers.org

• **Pittsfield Players**
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852,
pittsfieldplayers.com

• **Profile Chorus**
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Curtain Calls



Smudge will be performed in Salem, Mass.
Courtesy photo.

• **Vouchers are back for year two:** Last year, four arts organizations in Concord, all of which use the Concord City Auditorium at 2 Prince St., joined together to start a new voucher program. If people became a member or subscriber to either the Community Players of Concord, Concord Community Concert Association, Granite State Symphony Orchestra, or Red River Theatres, they would receive a voucher for a free ticket to the other three participating organizations. Now the program is coming back for a second year. "Things went very well," said Carol Bagan of Friends of the Audi, which is the umbrella organization that brings these groups together. "The use of the vouchers grew through the season, with the most being used in the spring. This is good because it got people involved and made them think about next season." Next season, the 2011-2012 season, will begin at the Audi with the season-opening gala on Sunday, Sept. 18. All four of the arts organizations will be at the opening gala, which will also feature a variety show in the evening. But arts patrons will receive their vouchers through whichever arts

organization they subscribe to. Bagan said the vouchers are a great builder of good will and allow fans to take a risk and experiment with an art form they might not otherwise pay to see. "When you strengthen one arts organization, you strengthen them all," Bagan said. Bagan said it took only an hour to organize the voucher program this year, as everyone was cooperative and willing to help each other build their fan bases. Visit www.theaudi.org or call 225-2164.

• **Ghostlight travels to Salem:** Ghostlight Theatre Co. is known for its innovative shows, and its latest production, *Smudge*, is no exception. The play is being directed by Devon Scalisi, who worked with Ghostlight on the award-winning *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. A few years ago, Scalisi was invited to a conference in which he workshoped a play with Rachel Saltz, an Emmy award-winning writer who has worked on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and *Parks and Recreation* on NBC. This effort became *Smudge*, which opened Off-Broadway to rave reviews. While it ran, Scalisi waited for its rights to become available. They did and now this production is only the second ever done of this play. The play is about a seemingly perfect couple, Nick and Colby, who are having their first baby. But the baby is born and, as described by Kevin Letourneau, assistant director, has patches of fur, a talon, one eye, and other deformities. Of course the audience never actually sees the baby, but it does communicate with Colby through a series of medical equipment beeps. The play deals with the fear of childbirth and the couple's attempts to cope with what has happened. Letourneau said the parts of Nick and Colby are double cast, which means each performance is unique as the actors bring different emotions and fears to the stage. It is also double cast because the play, which is currently being performed through July 9 at the Salem Theatre Company, 90 Lafayette St., Salem, Mass., will hit the road in New Hampshire and other states in the fall. Having more actors allows flexibility for scheduling. The only other character in the show is Peter, the older brother, who offers a voice of wisdom and received a standing ovation when the play premiered. Letourneau said the play deals with heavy topics but is also a comedy. Shows are Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 (\$15 for seniors, \$10 for students). Call 978-790-8546 or visit www.salemtheatre.com.
—Adam Coughlin

• **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472
• **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
• **Stagecoach Productions**
7 Bayberry Way, Mont Vernon, 672-9664 stagecoachproductions.org
• **Stage One Productions**
Dinner Theatre at the Chateau Restaurant
201 Hanover St., Manchester 669-5511, stageoneprod.com
• **Yellow Taxi Productions**
yellowtaxiproductions.org
• *SMUDGE* will be performed through July 9 at the Salem Theatre Company, 90 Lafayette St., Salem, Mass. Shows are Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 (\$15 for seniors and \$10 for students). Call 978-790-8546 or visit www.salemtheatre.com.
• **THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** will be

performed through July 16 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Showtimes are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20-\$35. Visit www.seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.
• **ON GOLDEN POND** Directed by Ernest Thompson will be performed through July 3 and Aug. 23 through Sept. 4 at The Little Church Theater, 40 Route 113, Holderness. Shows are Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 968-2250 or visit www.ongoldenpond.org.
• **LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC** will be performed through July 3 at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Showtimes are Wednesday-Saturday, at 8 p.m., Tuesdays, at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 (\$42 on Saturdays). Call 924-7585 or visit www.peterboroughplayers.org.

• **FRACTURED FAIRYTALES** will be performed Thurs., June 30, at 7 p.m. at Hillsboro Deering Middle School, 6 Hillcat Dr., Hillsboro. Call 568-5102 or e-mail dunn.t@comcast.net.
• **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** A high-definition broadcast from the National Theater of London on Thurs., June 30, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2400 or visit www.themusichall.org.
• **KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** will be performed Sat., July 2, Wed., July 6, Thurs., July 7, Fri., July 8, and Sat., July 9, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., July 3, at 2 p.m. at Andy's Summer Playhouse, 582 Isaac Frye Highway, Wilton. Tickets cost \$14 (\$7 for kids 12 and under). Call 654-2613 or visit www.andyssummerplayhouse.org.
• **OH COWARD!** will be performed July 6-July 17 at the Peterborough

Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Showtimes are Wednesday-Saturday, at 8 p.m., Tuesdays, at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 (\$42 on Saturdays). Call 924-7585 or visit www.peterboroughplayers.org.

• **LES MISERABLE SCHOOL EDITION** will be performed Thurs., July 7, Fri., July 8, and Sat., July 9, at 7 p.m., Sat., July 9, at 2 p.m. and Sun., July 10, at 4 p.m. at Kearsarge Regional High School, 457 N. Road, N. Sutton. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for children). Visit www.katcompany.org or call 927-4899.

• **THE MUSIC MAN** will be performed July 8-July 24 at the Leddy Center for the Performing Arts, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday and Wednesday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 and \$16. Call 679-2781 or visit www.leddycenter.org.

• **CAMP ROCK** Palace Youth Theater will perform on Thurs., July 14, and Fri., July 15, at 7 p.m., Sun., July 17, at 2 p.m., Fri., July 22, at 7 p.m., Sat., July 23, at noon and Sun., July 24, at 2 p.m. at the Palace Theater, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Visit www.palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **AMY BEACH STORIES** will be performed on Fri., July 15, at 3 and 7 p.m. at John Stark Regional High School, 618 North Stark Highway, Weare. E-mail Tom Dunn at tdunn@comcast.net.

• **AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY** The Milford Area Players will be performed July 15 through July 24 at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Visit www.MilfordAreaPlayers.org.

• **ANCESTRAL VOICES: A FAMILY STORY** will be performed July 20-July 31 at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Showtimes are Wednesday-Saturday, at 8 p.m., Tuesdays, at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$40(\$42 on Saturdays). Call 924-7585 or visit www.peterboroughplayers.org.

• **STREGA NONA** UNH's Little Red Wagon will perform on Thurs., July 21, at 10 a.m. in the third floor auditorium at UNH-Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 641-4167 or visit www.unhm.unh.edu.

Summer Theater

• **INTERLAKES SUMMER THEATRE** Summer performances will be held at Interlakes High School, 1 Lake Lane, Meredith. Shows will be held Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays, at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Shows are: *Guys and Dolls*, through July 3; *Man of LaMancha*, July 5-July 17 www.interlakes theatre.com.

• **CHILDREN'S THEATRE** will be held on Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. at Interlakes High School, 1 Lake Lane, Meredith. Show are: *Aladdin* on July 8 and July 9. Call 1-888-245-6347 or visit www.interlakes theatre.com.

• **SUMMER CHILDREN'S SERIES 2011** performances at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, www.palacetheatre.org, 668-5588. Tickets cost \$6. Shows are: *Cinderella* on Tues., July 5, at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Wed., July 6, at 10 a.m.; *Beauty & the Beast* on Tues., July 12, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Wed., July 13, at 10 a.m.

• **WIZARD OF OZ** will be performed Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, through Aug. 21 at the Prescott Park Arts Festival. Call 436-2848 or visit www.prescottpark.org.

• **LITTLE SMILES CHIL-**

On stage



France visits Nashua

C'est Si Bon, a French band, will be the premiere act of the 2011 Summer Concerts on the Plaza series at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. They will perform on Thursday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. C'est Si Bon's vocalist and artistic director, Angela Rossi, captures the essence of French popular classics with a touch of jazz. She is backed by piano, bass, drum and accordion. A graduate of the Berklee College of Music, Rossi has appeared at the Berklee Performance Center and Ryles Jazz Club. In 2008 she performed at the Nashua Public Library as part of the group Newpoli. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org. Angela Rossi. Courtesy photo.

DREN'S SUMMER SERIES will be held at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Shows are Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Shows are: *The Secret Garden*, July 5; *The Ugly Duckling*, July 12; *The Princess and the Pea*, July 19; *Arabian Nights*, July 26; *Beauty and the Beast*, Aug. 2; *The Pied Piper*, Aug. 9; and *Cinderella*, Aug. 16. Call 225-1111 or visit www.ccanh.com.

• **PETERBOROUGH PLAYERS** will perform a variety of plays at 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, 924-7585, www.peterboroughplayers.org. Second Company will present *Stuart Little*, Fridays and Saturdays, July 1-July 23.

• **THE WINNIPESAUKEE PLAYHOUSE** will perform shows at Alpenrose Plaza, 36 Endicott St., East Laconia, 366-7377, www.winniplayhouse.com. First show is *Butterflies Are Free*, through July 2. Shows are Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 7:30 p.m. and Mondays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Other shows are: *The Tempest*, July 6-July 16; *Shipwrecked: An Entertainment*, July 20-July 30; *Gigi*, Aug. 3-Aug. 13; *Steel Magnolias*, Aug. 17-Sept. 3; and *The Guys*, Sept. 8-Sept. 11.

• **THE BARNSTORMERS THEATRE** will perform shows at the Barnstormers Theatre, 104 Main St., Tamworth. Shows are Tuesday-Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Visit www.barnstormerstheatre.org or call 323-8500. Shows are: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, July 5-July 9.

Auditions/workshops

• **TWO AUDITIONS** Auditions for *The Butler Did It* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* will be held on Tues., July 12, and Wed., July 13, at the Garrison Players Arts Center, Route 4 in Rollinsford. Roles are available for five men and five women for each play. Actors will cold read from the script and should bring a resume. Anyone who might want to work backstage in any capacity is also encouraged to attend the auditions. Visit www.garrisonplayers.org.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **SEEKING MUSICIANS** The Amherst Town Band is seeking new musicians on all instruments. They rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in the choral room at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Most band members are amateur musicians. Visit www.amhersttownband.org.

• **THE MERRIMACK CHORUS** meets Sundays 7-9 p.m. at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church St., Merrimack. Call Choral Director Jamie Saucier at 828-6739.

• **MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SUMMER BAND** Open to all woodwind, brass, and percussion players, high school students through adult learners. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. at the Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester. E-mail edward.doyle@comcast.net or call 644-4548.

• **SUMMER CLASSES** at The Middle Music Academy of Middle New Hampshire Arts & Entertainment Center, 316 Central St., Franklin. Call 934-1901 or visit www.themiddlenh.org.

• **AMHERST TOWN BAND** will perform on Sun., July 3, at 8 p.m. at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Fireworks will be there. Visit www.amhersttownband.org.

• **INDEPENDENCE DAY EVE CONCERT** Merrimack Concert Association will perform on Sun., July 3, at 7 p.m. on the bandstand in Abbie Griffin Park, Merrimack. The concert is free. Call 424-0558 or visit www.merrimackconcert.org.

• **AMHERST TOWN BAND** will perform on Sun., July 4, at 10 a.m. during the Amherst Fourth of July Parade. Visit www.amhersttownband.org.

• **NEVERS' 2nd REGIMENT BAND** will perform on Mon., July 4, at 7:45 p.m. at Memorial Field on the right-hand side of South Fruit St., Concord. The concert is free. (Rain date is Tues., July 5). Visit www.neversband.org.

• **SUMMER SINGS:** Songs from Zimbabwe will be held Tues., July 5, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10. Call 228-1196 or visit www.ccmusicschool.org.

• **C'EST SI BON** French band will perform on Thurs., July 7, at 7 p.m. outside the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit www.nashualibrary.org or call 589-4610.

• **NEVERS' 2nd REGIMENT BAND** will perform on Fri., July 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the New London Bandstand. The concert is free. Visit www.neversband.org.

• **THE BEST OF BROADWAY** Pianist Robert Dionne will perform on Fri., July 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre, 281 Cartier St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$12 at door. Visit www.majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Not your typical museum

Mariposa celebrates 9 years

By Briana Palma
bpalma@hippopress.com

Peterborough's Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center is not your typical museum. You won't find signs asking you to stand back from the artwork or security guards watching your every move. On the contrary, the Mariposa Museum has a "hands-on" policy, inviting patrons to touch, try on and play with many of its artifacts, which range from a Kenyan goat-skin drum to a traditional Muslim burqa.

The nine-year-old not-for-profit's unconventional rules help achieve the goal to "broaden awareness of both the differences and common ground between cultures," as described in its vision and mission statement.

"It's an easy way to get kids involved," said Mose Olenik, museum administrator. "They get very excited about being able to touch things and try on things."

"They can actually play musical instruments from around the world and learn that this instrument is similar to a flute [they] have, but this one is from Africa or Guatemala," she added. "So even though their culture may be different in a lot of ways, it also may be similar in a lot of ways."

The museum encourages participation right from the start of the exhibit, where, in the same room as the gift shop, visitors can represent their ancestry by placing butterfly stickers on a colorful wall map or weave strands of fabric on a loom, putting their touch on a tapestry that, when complete, will be sent to a local nursing home.

The main part of the exhibition, however, awaits upstairs, where glass cases practically overflow with cultural artifacts. Among the everyday objects, visitors will find a Ukrainian bread served on Easter Sunday, a Bedouin woman's embellished face veil and a Mexican corn husk doll with a vibrant red skirt.

The room also contains two interactive spaces geared toward children: a dress-up area and a corner with marionettes. On the third floor they can also explore a host of musical instruments from around the world or use the

open space to work on a puzzle.

Most of the items on display were donated by founders David Blair and Linda Marsella, two Harvard-educated teachers who taught and traveled internationally, accumulating artifacts along the way.

"Linda loved to buy things and she would always say, 'How can a child learn something from this?'" Olenik said.

"We have many items that are just fun and they're items that people live with," she added. "We aren't a fine arts gallery; we're a gallery of folk art — how people live, how people celebrate, how they dress, how they take care of their dead."

The museum is housed in the former Baptist Church, built in the 19th century. Over time, it underwent many transformations, housing shops, an art gallery, a ballet school, a newsroom and a marionette theater. In 1999 a fire destroyed the interior, and two years later Blair and Marsella bought the building and founded the not-for-profit. In the space's evolution they found inspiration for the museum's name, the Spanish word for butterfly.

"They first saw the museum as this burnt-out space and then saw that they could make it into something beautiful, something that they really had a vision and a dream about," Olenik said. "She [Marsella] saw the butterfly as a symbol of transition and rebirth."

Marsella died in 2007, but her legacy lives on at the Mariposa Museum, which is celebrating its ninth anniversary with a weekend of special events. On Friday, July 1, the museum will open two new exhibits, "Adornments" and "The Art of Balinese Woodcarving, Wayan Siada and Family." At a concert on the same evening, Frank Wallace of Duo LiveOak will perform "Epitafio a un pajarito," a song based on a poem by Federico García Lorca that he composed in Marsella's memory.

In the new exhibits and other activities, the museum has stayed true to Marsella's mission to help — not force — people to understand other cultures, said Olenik. "There's not a lot of diversity in this area, and so for us to bring in programs, a culture might seem very for-



A Tibetan monk helps Meribeth Stafford create the sand mandala.

eign. But to be able to teach people about it so they'll have a different respect going out than they did coming in, or a different understanding, that's what really gets us excited and that's what Linda wanted this museum to do."

Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center

26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, www.mariposamuseum.org

Hours: Open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the summer (September through June, open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Cost: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children

- **Mariposa Museum 9th Anniversary Celebration**
 - KidCraft: Hilarious Hats and Creative Crowns, Fri., July 1, from 5 to 6 p.m.
 - Opening reception, Fri., July 1, at 6 p.m.
 - Concert featuring Duo LiveOak, Jose Manuel Lezcano and Jennifer Yeaton Paris, Fri., July 1, at 7 p.m.
 - Family celebration with cookies and crafts, Sun., July 3, from 2 to 5 p.m.
- All events are free and open to the public.

advice and assistance. Costs \$9 for adults and \$6 for children.

• **HALF-PRICE ADMISSION** The Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, Mon., July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Independence Day with \$4 admission for children and adults. Visitors are also allowed reentry.

• **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Merrimack High School, 38 McElwain St., Merrimack, Mon. July 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. The Rotary Club of Merrimack will serve its annual pancake breakfast with fluffy pancakes, waffles, eggs, sausages, juice and hot coffee. The tickets are \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for seniors; \$4.00 for children under 12; and free for children under 4. For more information about Merrimack Rotary or the pancake breakfast call Dan Bittel at 424-1034 or go to www.clubrunner.ca/merrimack.

• **ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HORSES** Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, July 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kim Misco from Stonepost Farm will lead this event

about Arabian horses. Meet "Zodiac Treasure," a national champion horse. For more information, contact Gayle Tudisco by calling 432-6140 or e-mailing gaylet@derrypl.org.

• **SHADOW PUPPETS** Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, Wed., July 6, at 2 p.m. Come and watch as these shadows bring to life different trickster tales from around the world. Afterward everyone will have a chance to go behind the scenes and become puppeteers themselves.

• **HIP HOP DANCING** Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, Thurs., July 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Kids entering grades 6-12, learn moves and routines to hip hop hits. There will be snacks and a door prize. Every participant gets a ticket to our Summer Reading Raffle. Programs are free but registration is requested. Register at rogerslibrary.org "teens" or by calling 886-6030.

• **INVENTION CONVENTION** Greeley Park, Nashua, Fri., July 8, at 7:30 p.m. The Nashua Public Library's first night of Plaza

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

Theater

- The Peterborough Players are presenting a production of *Stuart Little* based on the classic E.B. White book. During the hour-long show, children can watch as the friendly talking mouse goes on adventures in the world of humans. Guests can also meet the cast and are invited to pack a picnic lunch to enjoy on the theater grounds after the show. The nine-performance run opens Friday, July 1, at 10:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$8 for children and \$10 for adults. See www.peterboroughplayers.org.

- As part of its Summer Children's Series, the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, is bringing to life a number of beloved fairytales, including *Cinderella*. In three performances on Tuesday, July 5, and Wednesday, July 6, the princess and her terrible stepsisters will light up the stage in this fun, modern production. Tickets cost \$6. See www.palacetheatre.org.

Fireworks for the Fourth

- Manchester's festivities come a day early with its annual **Independence Day celebration** on Sunday, July 3, at Arms Park. The

39th Army Band performs at 7:30 p.m. and will continue to entertain as the fireworks begin to light up the sky, about 9:30 p.m.

- At Concord's Memorial Field, you can enjoy an evening of events leading up to the **fireworks** at dusk on Monday, July 4. There will be a baseball game, vendors and music from radio WJYY and the Nevers Band, a traditional concert group that dates back to the days of the Civil War.

- On July 4 the city of Nashua is putting on quite the **party**, too. Kids can join in on the fun during Field Day (10 a.m.-1 p.m.), which features carnival games, relay races, face painting and magicians. At 8:30 p.m., the Spartans Drum & Bugle Corp. will perform, and about half hour later, the fireworks display will get started.

- The **Independence Day festivities** last five days in Derry. On Tuesday, July 5, Hood Park will host a red, white and blue celebration with treats for all and prizes for the most patriotic costume. On Thursday, July 7, there will be a road-trip themed scavenger hunt, and on Friday, July 8, you can honor the 50th state at a Hawaiian luau and barbecue.

Down to earth

- The **Discover the Power of Parks** program begins Friday, July 1, at six state parks, including Greenfield, Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway. Interpreters from the Student Conservation Association will lead guided hikes, tours and workshops for children and family. The programs are free with park admission; pre-registration is not required. See nhstateparks.org.

- Visit the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, 23 Science Road, Holderness, where, in July and August, you can take part in the **Up Close to Animals** show, free with admission. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the center offers hourly educational talks that each feature a different live animal. See www.nhnature.org.

- Stop in at Charming-fare Farm, 774 High St., Candia, where your \$17 admission ticket includes unlimited **pony, horse-drawn carriage and tractor train rides**. During a day at the farm you can also get hands-on in the petting area, watch the daily birds of prey show and see many different wild and farm animals, like bears, wolves, peacocks and sheep.

Pics will also include a robotics demonstration and an invention convention. Kids who want to exhibit their inventions should register at www.tinyurl.com/nplfilm. At dusk, the night's feature film, *Despicable Me*, begins.

- SUPER STELLAR FRIDAY: TEEN NIGHT** McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-7827, July , at 7 p.m. Join amateur radio "extra" Dale Clement (AF1T) as he demonstrates how antennas send and receive radio waves. Discover why some antennas are on huge towers and why some (like in cell phones) can't be seen. Then discover how to bounce a signal off the Moon and talk with the International Space Station. Costs \$8.

CRAFTS

Fairs/Exhibits

- 40TH ANNUAL GUNSTOCK CRAFT FESTIVAL** The Gunstock Mountain Resort, Route 11A, Gilford, July 2-4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 150 juried craftsmen and artisans. Among the work on display and for sale are country woodcrafts, photography, jewelry, folk art, soaps, fiber arts, toys, blown glass, scroll work, pressed flowers, pet treats, quilts, ceramics, shell craft, frames, gourmet oils, roasted nuts and more. Held rain or shine and is handicapped accessible. Admission and parking

is free. Go to www.castleberryfairs.com.

Knitting

- BEGINNERS AND BEYOND** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Classes are Tuesdays at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 5:30 p.m., Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (alternating weeks), Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (alternating 1st and 3rd Saturdays). Six weekly two-hour sessions are \$60. Call 505-4432.

- BEYOND BEGINNER CROCHET** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Six weekly sessions for \$60. Call 505-4432.

- BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY** (16 Main St., Brookline, 673-3330, brookline.nh.us) has a knitting, crocheting and cross-stitch group that meets every Monday at 6 p.m. The group is informal and drop-ins are welcome.

- DROP-IN KNITTING CLUB** Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, every Tuesday, 1-2 p.m. Call 465-7721. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Compare patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips.

Drop in, no sign-up required.

- DROP-IN STITCHERS** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road (Route 102), Hudson. Work on knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any other needlework project with company, and pass the time while sharing ideas and techniques for future work. Call 886-6030.

- THE ELEGANT EWE** (71 S. Main St., Concord, 226-0066, elegantewe.com) offers a variety of knitting classes and workshops as well as classes in felting and spinning.

- FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB** every Friday 6-10 p.m. at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com). Open project, no fee. Bring an existing project or start a new one. Call 505-4432.

- HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY** (1701B Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) hosts a learning-to-knit circle every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the adult room of the library. Tea and coffee are served.

- KNITTING KLUB** every Tuesday at the Hollis Social Library, 3-4 p.m. in the library meeting room. Meet, mingle and trade yarns with local knitters. Have fun comparing patterns, sharing techniques and trading tips on stitches, sweaters



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Treasure hunt

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Dear Donna,

I recently purchased this at an auction house in northern New Hampshire. I thought it would be a great decorative lamp for a new camp we just got. Can you tell me the age of it and possibly the value.

I didn't pay much for it but would like to possibly find a couple more. Are there specific people out there that sell this sort of thing?

Tina in Salem

Dear Tina,

That is a great lamp and, yes, I agree it would be a great accent to a room within a camp or log home. I don't usually go for the taxidermy items (called Adirondack) but they are very collectible. But yours has a great shade and that's what I like about it.

It's tough to tell the age from your pictures but it could be from any time between the 1950s and the present because these items are still being made today. If you look at the cord and the electrical parts it could give you a better idea of the age. The age does have a lot to do with the value but I would also consider the form and condition when determining a value.

I would look for someone who deals in Adirondack items. Another option would be to keep going to auctions or flea markets, and don't rule out antique shops as well.

You don't see a lot of this type of stuff around, and usually when you do it is expensive. So if you didn't pay a lot you got a deal. I would say your lamp is in the



\$200 range in the condition it appears to be in. Others should all be in the same range or higher depending on the taxidermy and oddity. As I said, age is important, but even new ones are expensive.

Note: When caring for taxidermy items, never soak them. Always just use a damp cloth and wipe down with the way of the hair. Dusting often will keep them in great shape for years.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

and mittens. Drop in, no sign-up required.

• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY** 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org hosts a knitting group every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **NASHUA STITCH 'N BITCH** meets Mondays 7-10 p.m. at the café in Borders, 281 DW Hwy in Nashua. Drop-ins welcome. See kat.prettyposies.com/nashuasnb.

• **NESMITH KNITTERS** meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Nesmith Library (8 Fellows Road, Windham, 432-7154, www.nesmith-library.org). All skills and ages welcome.

• **NEW ENGLAND FABRICS** (55 Ralston St., Keene, 352-8683, newenglandfabrics.com) has offered classes in sewing, knitting, quilting and more. Call for the fall schedule.

• **SOCKS ON A 12" CIRCULAR NEEDLE** at the Yarn and Fiber Company (11 Manchester Road, Derry, www.yarnandfiber.com) on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. Call 505-4432.

• **YARN AND FIBER COMPANY** (11 Manchester Road, Derry, 505-4432, www.yarnandfiber.com) offers classes in knitting, as well as Friday night knitting club, and classes focused on a single piece.

DANCE

• **Arthur Murray Dance Studio** 99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, learntodancetoday.com

• **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC** 250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com

• **Dance International Studio** 83 Hanover St., Manchester, 858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm

• **Kathy Blake Dance Studios** 3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst, 673-3978, kathyblakedances-studios.com

• **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio** 352 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-9350, krystalballroom.com

• **Let's Dance Studio** 5 North Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancen.com

• **Mill-A-Round Dance Center** 250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com

• **N-Step Dance Center** 2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103 603-641-6787, nstepdance.com

• **Paper Moon Dance Center** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com

• **Queen City Ballroom** 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroom.com

• **Royal Palace Dance Studio** 167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com

• **Senior Activity Center** 70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155

• **Steppin' Out Dance Studio** 1201 Westford St., Lowell, 978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com

Folk Classes and Dance
• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on

Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.

• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windmere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.

• **NEW ENGLAND CONTRA DANCE** Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, Fridays, 8-11 p.m. Newcomers session at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for ages 12 and younger. Call 529-1586 or e-mail weareampm@gsinet.net.

• **MILL-A-ROUND** Mill City Contra Dance, Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St., Manchester, third Friday of every month. Beginners workshop at 7:30 p.m. Dance is 8-11 p.m. No partner necessary; all dances taught. Bring clean, soft-soled shoes. \$8 adult, \$5 student, under 12 free.

• **COUPLES DANCE LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windmere Drive, Epsom, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.

• **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.

• **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.

• **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.

• **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nash-uased@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rsdscsboston.org for a complete list.

• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

LANGUAGE

• **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** at Two Bedford Farms, Bedford. Visit www.teachmesign-language.com for a list of courses. Kids and adult classes available. Registration required. Call Michelle MacNevin at 508-944-7831. Cost is \$60, all materials included. Save \$10 for every person you refer.

• **CHINESE** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **CHINESE** language programs from the Derry Chinese School, including preschool, elementary, intermediate, teen and adult programs, in Derry. All classes are Saturday mornings at the Marion Gerrish Community Center (39 W. Broadway, Derry). Call 888-928-8470 and visit www.derrychinese-school.org.

• **CHINESE** classes at several locations in NH, including Exeter, Meredith, Nashua and Concord. Classes include conversational Chinese for young learners, as well as advanced study of Chinese language and literature. To register contact Ying Xia Peterson at 224-0164 or yxpeterson@comcast.net.

• **CHINESE MANDARIN** classes at New Hampshire Chinese School (in Concord at West Congregational Church, 499 North State St.; in Nashua at Girls Inc. of NH, 27 Burke St.; in Manchester, Belknap Hall at Southern New Hampshire

In the spotlight



Hit the ground running

The weekend of the Fourth of July will see many road races, like the **4K on the 4th** (www.4konthe4th.com), the first race of its kind in New Hampshire. The event takes place on Sunday, July 3, at the NHTI campus in Concord, and proceeds will benefit the NHTI Lynx Cross Country Team. The winners will get pint glasses, and T-shirts will be handed out to the first 250 entrants. Kids can get in on the fitness fun, too, with 400- and 800-meter courses for them. Also on July 3, Millennium Running is hosting the **HASLAW Manchester Mile** (millenniummile.org), which includes one-mile and 5K races and benefits the YMCA of Greater Manchester. There will be a pre-race social event at Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., Manchester, where runners can pick up their numbers and enjoy live music and complimentary beer. On July 4, run through Nashua with the **Revolution Run** (www.revrunnashua.com). The 5K and 10K races begin at Holman Stadium, 67 Amherst St., where there will also be post-race refreshments, music and more. The man and the woman with the fastest first-mile time will each take home a \$250 prize.

University, 2500 N. River Road) on weeknights and Saturdays. Levels range from preschool to adult, beginner to advanced. Classes run year-round. Visit www.nhChineseSchool.org or call 888-262-1993.

• **ESPERANTO** international language courses at the American-Canadian Genealogical Society, 4 Elm St. in Manchester. Register by e-mail to Jack Stanton at cw3jackstan@mindspring.com.

• **FRENCH** Franco-American Centre (Manchester, 669-4045, facnh.com) offers classes for beginner through advanced speakers and classes for children.

• **FRENCH** Club Richelieu for French-speakers in Greater Nashua holds dinner meetings at 6 p.m. on second Wednesdays at the Radisson, 11 Tara Blvd. in Nashua. Call 889-7112.

• **FRENCH** Gens-Unis du Richelieu meets monthly at Sunrise Grille, 141 Main St., Suncook, at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner meetings include a speaker and lively French conversation. The cost is \$15. To make reservations, call 485-7171 or 624-1545 no later than the preceding Friday.

• **FRENCH LESSONS** at the Franco-American Centre (52 Concord St., Manchester, 669-4045, www.facnh.com). After-school French will be offered for school-age children (8+) on Mondays, 4-5 p.m. Details are available at the website. For specific questions, contact Pauline Guimond Grant at 623-1093 or e-mail acprgrant@comcast.net. Tuition is \$250 for 10 weeks. Most classes are 75 minutes. There is a mandatory yearly student Centre membership fee of \$35. To register, call the Centre or e-mail lsutton@facnh.com.

• **GENS-UNIS DU RICHELIEU FRENCH CLUB** meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Pembroke Library. Dinner meetings include a speaker and lively French conversation. The cost is \$15. No experience necessary. Call John at 204-7680 or Georgette at 485-7171 no later than the preceding Friday.

• **GERMAN** Stammtisch, a dinner and conversation group for all German speakers, meets every Wednesday at 9 p.m. at a local restaurant. This program reaches out to the German speaking and German learning

community. If your German is rusty, here is an opportunity to exercise it. If you are fluent you can help a beginner. If you are taking German in high school this will increase your momentum. E-mail wikki@netzero.net about joining.

• **GERMAN** NHGA German School offers classes for adult beginners with no knowledge of German, those with limited abilities, and those at advanced levels. Classes are conducted using German textbooks in an informal, speech-intensive manner, emphasizing German conversation, traditions and culture. Visit nhgerman.org.

• **GREEK** Free modern Greek language lessons for adults, intermediate level. Call 497-4581.

• **HEBREW** at Congregation Betenu (5 Northern Blvd, Amherst, 886-1633, www.betenu.org). Hebrew language instruction, Torah and Jewish studies for adults on Monday evenings. Call 886-1633 or email betenu@nii.net.

• **HEBREW** at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry. Hebrew night school on Tuesday evenings. Visit etzhayim.org

• **IRISH** Conradh na Gaeilge of New England, a nonprofit Irish language organization, offers Irish language classes in Manchester. Call 627-6651 or visit www.gaeilge.org.

• **ITALIAN** conversation group at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. Meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Contact Carol at carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org or 589-4610.

• **ITALIAN** Parliamo Italiano, group, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. at Bedford Library (3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford). Call 471-0308.

• **ITALIAN** Bedford Italian Cultural Society will hold monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the McAllister Room of the Bedford Public Library on Meetinghouse Road, 7 p.m. Italian chat sessions meet one-half hour earlier. Membership is \$15 per year. Contact Virginia at 472-2592 or visit BICS website at www.bics-nh.org.

• **LITHUANIAN** Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Meets Saturdays at 10 a.m. Visit www.nashualibrary.org/directions.htm or call Carol at 589-4610.

• **MODERN GREEK** classes for

Continued on page 31

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070520

GARDENING GUY

Weather? Not to worry!

In which we learn the right way to mulch

By Henry Homeyer
 listings@hippopress.com



(left) Watering wand. (right) Shade for tomatoes. Henry Homeyer photo.

It seems as if the weather is getting more extreme: tornadoes, floods, drought, heat waves, cold spells. What's a gardener to do? Well, stop worrying, for starters. Each year the weather is different — and most years we still have nice flowers, and eventually have the lettuce

and tomato for a good sandwich. And unless you're a commercial farmer, your life and livelihood will not be too adversely affected, even if the weather is bad. There are a few steps we can take to help our flowers and vegetables along, however.

Planting anything is best done on a cool, cloudy day, or even in a light sprinkle. If we've had a few days of rain, it's better to wait for the soil to dry out a little before planting. Rototilling wet soil is definitely a no-no, and walking on wet soil can compact it, ruining soil structure.

Adding compost, or aged cow manure, will help any soil. If you have sandy soil, it will act as a sponge to hold moisture from percolating right through. If you have a clay soil, it will improve drainage and make the soil lighter and fluffier and more receptive to roots. Avoid fresh cow or horse manure as it will introduce grass and weed seeds to your soil — those animals don't digest all the seeds.

I planted my tomatoes on a warm dry day in early June, and we almost immediately got hit by a spell of days in the 90s. I had grown these babies from seed and hardened them off outside, but a big, leafy tomato can lose a lot of water in the hot sun when it's 94. So I created some shade for my tomatoes by draping row cover over the tomato cages. It helped.

Row cover is a spun synthetic fabric that is used to keep insects off plants while allowing water vapor and sunshine to pass through. It also can keep a plant a few degrees warmer early or late in the season if draped right over it. Row cover comes in various weights, and I had some of the heaviest type. It did a good job of shading my plants when placed on the cages (and kept in place with clothes pins). I also kept the soil well watered during the heat wave.

A few words about watering: I don't like overhead sprinklers. Yes, they are easy to turn on and let the machine do the work. But they get the leaves of your plants wet, and that can encourage fungal diseases. Most fungi send out hyphae (root-like appendages) that pierce the leaf, allowing the fungus to infect the plant. Many need a moist leaf surface to do that. Watering in the evening with an overhead sprinkler moistens the leaves and makes them more susceptible.

I like watering with a watering wand. This is a nice 30-inch-long metal handle with a watering rose on one end and a shut-off on the other. The brand I like best is Dramm. It sends out a nice gentle spray, even with the water pressure up fairly high. I find the

less expensive watering devices send sharp sprays, which can damage the plants or wash away the soil. I like the watering wand because I can deliver water to the root zone while letting the tops stay dry.

Newly planted trees and shrubs need to be watered weekly, or even more often if the soil is sandy and temperatures are high. The most common cause of first-year death of trees is dehydration. But don't just give your new tree a quick squirt. Time how long it takes for your hose to deliver 5 gallons of water into a bucket, and then make sure to spray long enough to deliver 5 gallons — in a nice wide circle around the tree. Watering the rootball is not enough. Dry soil nearby will wick the water away, leaving the rootball dry in no time.

Many gardeners put down bark mulch in established perennial beds. This keeps down the weeds and holds in moisture. But if you add more mulch each year to pretty-up the beds, you can develop a layer of bark that is almost impermeable to rain. I find an inch to an inch and a half of mulch is adequate. And I try to leave a little donut hole around the plant so that quick showers can deliver some water to the roots.

Recently I examined some maples that were dying in a parking lot. The top half of one was completely leafless; the others also showed some leaf loss. These trees were suffering from bark rot due to “mulch volcanoes.” Each had at least 6 inches of bark mulch right up against the trunk. I predict that all will be dead from bark rot within two or three years. And all will struggle getting any moisture. So be judicious in applying your mulch.

If we have another week of rainy weather, your vegetables like tomatoes may show yellowing leaves, a sign of stress. This occurs because normally plants pull up nitrogen and other minerals from the soil with water that is used to replace water lost to transpiration on sunny days, but not in rainy spells. The solution: spray liquid fish fertilizer onto the leaves. The leaves will absorb the nitrogen and green up.

So don't worry, be happy. No matter what the weather, your garden will (eventually) be just fine.

Henry's new book is Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast, a Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide. Contact him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

adults meet Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester). Reinforce and review your conversation & writing skills. Free. Call 497-4581.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** All Learners, LLC, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford, offers French and Spanish classes. Adult classes are on Tuesday evenings. Pre-registration is required. Call 986-7001 or e-mail office@all-learners.com.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** Concord Community Education (170 Warren St., 225-0804, classes-forlife.com) regularly offers courses in languages.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** “I Can Speak” language-learning software is available at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) for Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Russian and Portuguese. The software consists of 20 to 40 hours of intro material using listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Rodgers Memorial Library, Derry Road, Hudson. Mango Language Learning System teaches foreign language (Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian) and ESL conversational skills. Can visit library or log on from home through the library’s website at www.rodgerslibrary.org. Call 886-6030.

• **MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ONLINE** at Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Includes Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Haitian Creole, French, Irish and Greek. Free for library cardholders. Call 673-2408 or visit www.wadleighlibrary.org.

• **SPANISH** conversation group Library (2 Court St., Nashua) meets Tuesday nights, 7 -8:30 p.m. Each meeting will have a theme, giving people with intermediate skills an opportunity to practice the language. Call Carol at 589-4610.

• **SPANISH CONVERSATION** Adult Learning Center, 4 Lake St., Nashua. Six-week class will meet once a week and focus on listening and speaking Spanish and on cultural awareness skills. Register between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Learning Center or call at 882-9080 ext. 201. The cost of the course is \$90 plus a book fee.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **Amoskeag Fishways** 6 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-FISH, amoskeagfishways.org

• **Beaver Brook Association** 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org.

• **Charmingfare Farm** Route 27, Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-STAR, starhop.com

• **Educational Farm at Joppa Hill** 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, 472-4724, theeducationalfarm.org

• **Friends of Stark Park** North River Road, Manchester, 645-6700, friendsofstarkpark.org

• **Londonderry Trailways** PO Box 389, Londonderry, londonderrytrailways.org

• **Manchester Historic Association** 129 Amherst St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org

In the spotlight



Sports and fireworks

Sparks will fly when the New Hampshire Fisher Cats (www.nhfishercats.com) take on the New Britain Rock Cats at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, 1 Line Drive, Manchester. During the July 4 ballgame, which begins at 7:05 p.m., guests are invited to play Baseball Bingo for a chance to win prizes, and when the game is over they can stick around for a fireworks show. The **Lowell Spinners** are also treating fans to two games with fireworks when they play the Connecticut Tigers on Monday, July 4, and Tuesday, July 5, at 7:05 p.m. The colorful display isn’t the only special event on Tuesday, though. In the first-ever Human Home Run, Dave “The Bullet” Smith will be shot out of a cannon, flying over the right field wall. See www.lowellspinners.com.

- **Massabesic Audubon Center** 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhudubon.org
- **McLane Center** 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhudubon.org
- **Peabody Mill** Environmental Center 66 Brook Rd, Amherst, 673-1141, pmec.org
- **Seacoast Science Center** 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org
- **Society for the Protection of NH Forests** 224-9945, spnhf.org

Animals/insects/plants

BENEFICIAL INSECTS AND HOW TO ATTRACT THEM

Boscawen Agricultural Commission, 116 N. Main Street, Boscawen, Mon., July 18, at 6 p.m. Dot Perkins of UNH Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Resources, will discuss beneficial insects in your garden and how to attract them to keep bad insects and other pests at bay. E-mail agriculture03303@gmail.com or call Alan or Kellee at 753-9188 to register.

• **COASTAL BIRDING TRIP** Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 662-2045, Wed., July 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enjoy birding from the comfort of your car. Meet at Hampton Beach State Park and carpool to coastal hot spots. Look for a variety of shore birds. Costs \$9 and pre-registration is required. Call 668-2045 to register.

• **ENVIRONMENT LECTURE SERIES** Susan N. McLane Audubon Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, Tues., July 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. “White Nose Syndrome” lecture. Join Susi von Oettingen, endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, for an in-depth look at this devastating disease and its effects on our native bat population.

• **RAVEN FEEDING** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhudubon.org) every Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Watch as feeders give the raven his daily meal. Free.

• **SNAKE FEEDING** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhudubon.org) every Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Watch the ball pythons eat lunch and even get to touch them. Free.

Gardening/farming

• **GARDENING CLASS** Ponemah Bog, Amherst, Sat., July 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At this 75-acre bog, participants will explore the turberous grass-pink in bloom, as well as the horned bladderwort and small cranberry. Cost is \$44. Pre-registra-

tion is required. To register, call 508-877-7690 ext. 3303.

• **GARDEN TOUR & LUNCHEON** Opechee Garden Club presents *Gardening for All Ages*, the 15th annual garden tour, luncheon and boutique on Sat., July 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit a variety of gardens in the Laconia/Gilford area and shop at Sheilah’s Garden Boutique. There will also be raffles, music and floral displays. Tickets costs \$20. For more information, go to www.opecheegardenclub.com.

• **GOFFSTOWN COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB** holds meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Mountain View Middle School (41 Lauren Lane, Goffstown). Visit gardencentral.org/nhfgc/gcgc.

• **GRANITE STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** (GSAVS) meets first Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (except January and July) at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 Broadway in Derry, and holds regular workshops, plant and leaf sales and swaps. New members and visitors welcome; call 887-3154.

• **HAMPSTEAD GARDEN CLUB** holds meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hampstead Congregational Church (61 Main St., Hampstead). Visit hampsteadgarden.org.

• **HOOKSETT GARDEN CLUB** is holding programs open to the public at the Hooksett Public Library (1701B Hooksett Road, Hooksett) on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Visit nhclubs.esiteasp.com/hooksettgardenclub.

• **MERRIMACK GARDEN CLUB** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 646 DW Highway in Merrimack See www.merrimackgardenclub.org or contact Chris B. at 880-3739.

• **NASHUA GARDEN CLUB** (nashuagardenclub.org) holds meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church (121 Manchester St., Nashua). The public can attend meetings for a \$5 fee. Membership is \$20.

• **NH ORCHID SOCIETY** meets 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on second Saturday of each month at the Bedford Town Hall, at the intersection of Meeting House Road and Bedford Center Road. Refreshments are available and visitors are welcome.

• **NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF NH** (224-5022, nofanh.org) offers workshops and classes on gardening and farming. Call 224-5022 or e-mail info@nofanh.org.

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It's time to say goodbye to the Fiat



Dear Tom and Ray:

My mom is great. I love her, and I need to know how to help her. She has a '74 Fiat Spider convertible. It's adorable and fast, and she loves it. But it's not running. AGAIN. It's been parked for about a year or so now, covered with a tarp. The canvas roof has a hole, so it would need to be replaced. The interior has water damage, so that needs to be cleaned or replaced. The clutch (the reason it was parked) needs to be replaced, and now the battery is dead. My dad also thinks the carburetor is shot. My mom literally burst into tears at seeing its accumulated damage, and has despaired over not taking better care of it. My dad and I think we should get her a Mazda Miata. What's your advice? Do I try to help her keep the Fiat, or is it better to stop fighting it

and let it go? — Nora

RAY: Nora, you've come to the right place. It just so happens that we've run an identical experiment recently, involving someone who's unnaturally attached to a decrepit Fiat Spider —

TOM: That would be me.

RAY: — and a sympathetic, wiser, more detached family member, who replaced said Fiat with a Mazda Miata.

TOM: That would be my brother, except for the "wiser" part.

RAY: My brother has been nursing along a 1978 Fiat Spider on which almost nothing works. How do I know? Because he keeps asking me to fix it for him.

TOM: Well, I've been busy. So when it won't start, I ask my brother to have a look at it and figure it out.

RAY: Yeah, he's been busy staying home from work because his car won't start! So I decided it was time for an intervention.

TOM: He decided not to fix it anymore. And then, the next weekend, he was at a garage sale, and he found a 1993 Mazda Miata with 53,000 miles on it, for \$3,000.

RAY: I found it between a brass bed and a couple of tricycles. It cost more than the tricycles, but less than the bed. And the car was in perfect condition —

for my brother. Everything worked, but the car looked like it'd been worked over with a bag of chisels. That's why it was cheap.

TOM: But my brother had it painted, for another \$1,500, and now it's absolutely beautiful.

RAY: It won't be for long. But it starts every day, doesn't it?

TOM: It's a miracle!

RAY: It's not a miracle. That's what most cars do.

TOM: They do?

RAY: And you know what's great about it? Everything works.

TOM: Yeah. The windows work. They go down AND up. The windshield wipers work, the heater and air conditioner work, the top doesn't leak. I don't know why I didn't think of this sooner.

RAY: Because you're a hoarder and a cheapskate. And because YOU didn't have to do the repairs on the Fiat — I was doing them for you. But Nora's mom doesn't have that luxury. So she's a perfect candidate to trade up and "reverse the curse," as we Red Sox fans say.

TOM: Yeah. I hate to admit it, but my brother's right. Unless you're a mechanic, or you have a brother dumb enough to chew up his knuckles for

you, you're much better off with a Miata, which will provide all the fun of the Fiat, with five times the safety, and at a fraction of the maintenance costs.

RAY: And with a fraction of the smell. So tell your mom that your suggestion has been endorsed by Click and Clack.

TOM: And if she wants to sell her Fiat, let me know. In its current condition, it sounds like my kind of car.

RAY: If he buys it, I'll kill him, Nora.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 2009 Mini Cooper that has a weird, intermittent problem. When I am idling -- like at a stoplight -- I hear a slight bump underneath the car. It's as if a mechanic has rolled under the car and sat up, banging his head on the undercarriage. And it comes every 10 seconds ... exactly ... like clockwork. The really weird thing is that after I turn off the car completely, it will continue for roughly a minute and then finish off with three bumps: "ba-dump-bump." It's all very soft and hard to hear, but I can hear it. What is it? — Charles

RAY: I know exactly the sound you're talking about, Charles. It's like when my brother slides under a car to take a nap, and then wakes up and hits his head. Only with my brother, he stirs

every 10 hours, not every 10 seconds.

TOM: You know how dealers often will try to get rid of you by saying, "They all do that," Charles? Well, they all do that.

RAY: It's part of the evaporative emissions system on this car. All modern cars have a system that traps gasoline vapors so they don't escape into the air and create smog. What you're hearing is an air pump that's part of this car's self-diagnostic system.

TOM: When the car is at idle, every 10 seconds it pumps a burst of air into the evaporative emissions system and then tests the pressure to make sure no vapors are leaking out. And yes, it even continues for a minute after you shut off the engine, because the system remains under pressure for a bit.

RAY: If the sensor in the system were to detect a drop in pressure, it would turn on your "check engine" light, letting you know that there was a problem.

TOM: In fact, it's called the DMTL pump. Mini says it stands for "Diagnostic Module Tank Leak." But I think it's "Don't Make That Light" come on!

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Shop for dinner at the outlet:** Tanger Factory Outlet Center, 120 Laconia Road, Tilton, will host a farmers' market on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. through Sept. 21. The market will feature vendors offering fresh fruits, vegetables, cakes, breads, pastries, soaps and candles.

• **Join the board:** Applications to run for a seat on the Concord Cooperative Market (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840) Board of Directors are due by Friday, July 1, at 5 p.m. Board members are required to attend meetings once monthly and participate on co-op committees as needed. Applications are available at www.concordfoodcoop.coop.

• **Get your orders in:** IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, www.incredibrew.com, is preparing for the holiday release of its blackberry and award-winning chocolate raspberry port wines. The pre-order deadline for both limited releases is Tuesday, July 26, and a deposit of \$20 will be required to secure orders. Both ports cost \$180 per batch. For an additional \$15, batches can be fortified with French brandy.

• **Learn sweet kitchen techniques:** Shabby Chic, 4 Corbett Pond Road, Windham, 898-2442, www.shabbychicwindham.com, will host a red velvet cupcake baking class for adults on Thursday, June 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. Students will also learn how to make a traditional cream cheese frosting. The class costs \$42 and registration is required.

• **Cook with your children and teens:** Cooking Matters for Families, a free six-week cooking and nutrition series for children ages five to 12 and their families, will be held at The Upper Room, 36 Tsienetto Road, Derry, from Friday, July 8, through Friday, Aug. 12. Classes will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Cooking Matters for Teens, for ages 12 through 16, will run from Friday, July 8, through Friday, Aug. 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Those who qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, free and reduced lunch, WIC, or other types of financial assistance qualify for free participation in both programs. To register, contact Sue Schick at 437-8477 ext. 22.

• **Rhone reds and wines for grilling:** The Dover Wine Company, 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9463, www.doverwine.com, will hold a "Rhone-style Reds" class on Thursday, July 14. During the class Grenache, Syrah, Mouvedre and Cinsault will be discussed and sampled. The Wine Company will also host a class on pairing wine with grilled meals on Thursday, July 21. Both classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and cost \$25. Registration is required.

• **A night to benefit CASA:** Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, 1077 Elm St., Manchester, 647-7717, www.margs.com, will host Full Moon Madness on Friday, July 15, from 5 p.m. to close. The evening will feature specials, prizes and contests. Five percent of all lounge sales will benefit the New Hampshire branch of Court Appointed Special Advocates, a volunteer organization that advocates for abused

Continued on page 39

Bedford Village Inn gets a new Knack

Executive chef has been through *Hell's Kitchen*

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Chef Benjamin Knack was looking for a kitchen that was creative and successful; the one at the Bedford Village Inn was a good fit.

Knack, who joined the inn as executive chef in mid-May, appeared on Season 7 of *Hell's Kitchen*. When he met Inn owner Jack Carnevale, he was impressed with his passion for the business.

"It's difficult as a chef because some restaurants will say it's your menu and say 'Don't do this,'" Knack said, noting that he has been given free reign over the menus of the Inn's three eateries.

"It's about understanding who you are cooking for," he said. "Food is always evolving."

The Tavern at BVI, Knack said, will continue to offer bold comfort food with a twist. Putting a twist on classic dishes is something Knack said he has learned from great chefs over the years.

Knack described his dining room cuisine as "delicate" and noted that he wished he could get all of his ingredients from local farms but it would be difficult to do so and still be able to serve affordable dishes. He opts instead to support small farms through a middle man.

Knack said he makes a lot of gels, foams and powders for his dishes. He has been using a balsamic gel atop an heirloom tomato salad with a sherry vinaigrette, homemade ricotta, shaved fennel and onion, and will use a cheese foam to top his new steak and cheese, made with sliced beef carpaccio and onion jam, served on focaccia.

"It's a steak and cheese but it's not a steak and cheese," Knack said.

He recently ordered a cotton candy machine to create unique, sweet dishes.

Knack will update all three BVI menus seasonally. He reached into his pocket and pulled out two handwritten lists of ideas for new summer dishes including a chilled tomato soup to showcase local heirloom

tomatoes, seared scallops with corn and Fra Diavolo made with in-house-made pasta, calamari and scallops.

One summery dish on the menu is a mixed green salad topped with raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, toasted almonds and a lemon mascarpone dressing

"It's not the hardest thing in the world to make; anyone can add berries, anyone can make dressing," Knack said. "It's just understanding that they all go together."

Knack noted that while some chefs avoid making simple dishes, you do not need to mix together 10 ingredients for a dish to be good.

"You want to the food to speak for itself," he said.

The main ingredient to running a good restaurant, Knack said, is respect. Cursing and yelling are not allowed in his kitchen.

"We are here to make people happy ... if you can make the customers happy, your owners happy, train your staff and treat people with respect and dignity, you will enjoy your job," he said.

Knack, who has worked in the kitchens of Christopher's in Phoenix, Ariz., and Beacon Hill Bistro, L'Espalier and Sel de la Terre in Boston, said he is ready to tackle the task of running three restaurants simultaneously.

"A chef's job is full utilization," he said. "What we serve in the Tavern we will cross-utilize in Corks and in the dining room; it's a unique situation because most restaurants only have one menu."

Knack said it is a great experience to have customers be able to visit the Inn for dinner two to three times a week and for them to be able to eat something different in a different atmosphere each night.

Working in a kitchen, Knack said, does not require formal training, talent or brains, as success in the restaurant in industry comes as a result of hard work.

"You can work with a talented chef and gain artistic talent ... it's the whole 'teach a



Benjamin Knack. Courtesy photo.

man to fish' thing," he said.

Knack also noted the rewards of working for a great chef as a perk of the job.

"[A chef] congratulates the kitchen staff because they did it as a team; that's very rewarding," he said. "I don't know if you share that in the nine-to-five world."

Knack was teaching at the New England Culinary Institute in Vermont when the school's public relations department asked him to call the casting company affiliated with *Hell's Kitchen*. His outgoing nature during his phone interview scored him an interview in Boston, which led him to the final casting call in California.

Knack called himself "ignorant" to think that *Hell's Kitchen* was a real competition — he noted that the production staff "made a lot of things happen."

"*Hell's Kitchen* has nothing to do with cooking," Knack said. "You have got to be confident in what you do and be interesting so people will watch you."

While *Hell's Kitchen* personality Gordon Ramsay screams and yells at contestants of the show during filming, Knack said that he is never disrespectful and, off camera, can be endearing and personable.

Knack said what he took from his experience on *Hell's Kitchen* was the ability to deal with adversity.

"Once you get through that, you feel like you can do anything in any kitchen," he said.

Eat this

Try dishes created by Benjamin Knack at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, www.bedfordvillage-inn.com.

Beer bonanza in Nashua

New shop carries hundreds of kinds

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Between the brews filling the 36-foot-long, eight-foot-tall cooler and the 25.4-ounce corked glass bottles of beer lining a long row of wooden shelves, Marc Foster estimated that his new store carries more than 300 varieties of

The Beer Store

433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, www.thebeerstorenh.com

Hours: Monday through Wednesday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. The store is open at noon Sundays; check website for the closing time.

suds — an amount he said will increase.

"It's been fun to get them all in," Foster said.

Foster opened the appropriately named Beer Store in Nashua on June 24, billing the shop as "Nashua's Craft Beer Headquarters."

Growing up in Amherst, Foster said, he would have to drive quite a ways to find a decent beer store and usually found himself stopping at shops in Massachusetts when he would pass through the Bay State for work.

"I got tired of doing that and felt we needed a place up here," Foster said.

Beers are arranged in the seemingly never-ending cooler by the proximity of the brewery to the Granite State, with local beers, including brews from White Birch Brewing in Hooksett, Squam Brewing in Holderness, Smuttynose

in Portsmouth and Woodstock Inn Brewery in Woodstock in the first few coolers and international beers toward the end.

"Some places do it by style and it can be hard to find stuff," Foster said, adding that he expects 10 new breweries to open in New Hampshire by the end of the year.

Foster said while it would be hard to pinpoint which of his beers is the most unique, some of his brews are making their debut appearance in the state.

Foster likes to ask his customers what beers they have tried and enjoyed to help them make a selection.

"If someone likes pale ale, I will ask if they want more hops — a bitter flavor — or want something sweeter," he said. "I will send them

FOOD

to an amber ale one way or an IPA [India Pale Ale] the other way.”

Foster noted IPA as his favorite style of beer because of its bitter, floral and earthy flavor.

“I read recently that 30 percent of beer drinkers are IPA fans; that is proving to be true [at my store],” Foster said.

Foster said what he likes most about beer is the wide variety and how one style can boast so many variations.

“When you get bored with one beer from one brewer but like that style, there is always another to try,” he said.

For those who are apprehensive about splurging on a six-pack of beer they’ve never tried, Foster allows his customers to buy individual bottles of most of his offerings. Foster also plans to start offering some of his cold-only beers at room temperature.

“People want to buy their beer warm or cold,” Foster said. “As long as beer does not get above room temperature it’s fine. If it gets any hotter it’s ruined or on its way to being ruined.”

Foster is able to special-order beers for customers, if the products are approved by the state.

“If you bought [beer] in New Hampshire recently, I can probably get it,” he said. “If it’s something from, like, a small microbrewery in Texas I probably can’t get it.”

For customers who have asked about chocolate-flavored beer, Foster said he will be bringing in a Young’s Double Chocolate Stout, among others. He now offers Long Trail’s Coffee Stout.

“Everyone wants stouts right now, which is kind of funny because it’s summer,” Foster said.

Fruit beers are one way to avoid the bitter taste of most beers, Foster said.

“If you really want to start taking up drinking beer, [fruit beers] are a good place to start,” he said. Beers are offered in raspberry, apricot, peach and blueberry flavors at The Beer Store.

“Blueberry seems to take over the summer beer market,” Foster said, adding that there is also a lot of fruit influence on many imported beers including Lambics (Foster carries them in apple, cherry and raspberry flavors) and Krieks (cherry beers).



Marc Foster opened The Beer Store in Nashua on June 24. Angel Roy photo.

“Lambics are almost like fruity and sour; they’ve definitely got body, that’s for sure,” Foster said.

The most expensive brew at Foster’s store is Gnomegang at \$14 a bottle. The beer is made in Cooperstown, N.Y., in collaboration with a Belgian brewing company. Foster expects to get a few craft beers in that will run closer to \$20.

Foster is allowed to carry clearly labeled beers up to 18.2 percent alcohol by volume. Closest to reaching the legal limit at The Beer Store is Tokyo, a Scottish beer made by Brew Dog Brewery, which comes in at 18 percent. “It’s a huge stout,” Foster said, noting that he has not yet found the time to sit down with such a high-octane beer.

In addition to beer, The Beer Store carries Red Bran Coffee Roast from Hopkinton, Mass., Sierra Nevada mustards, buffalo wing sauces, salsa, Boylan’s soda, 13 varieties of Dave’s Insanity sauce and a handful of cocktail mixes.

Foster has been asked to carry home brewing supplies but he has not yet decided whether he will.

“There is a lot of room in the store for more stuff, but I’ve always pictured the store filled with bottles of beer, not hops themselves,” Foster said.

Making meals in the mill

Simply Delish started small and grew

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

In a kitchen tucked at the end of an almost unnoticeable corridor off the second-floor hallway of Waumbec Mills in Manchester on a recent Tuesday, sun-dried tomatoes were being chopped, feta was being crumbled and the sound of “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen, along with the smell of just-diced onions, filled the room.



Cheryl Smith, of Bedford, breaks up feta at Simply Delish in Manchester. Angel Roy photos.

Simply Delish

www.simplydelish.com, 566-3189
Simply Delish products can be found at The Meat House in Bedford and Pembroke, Harvest Market in Bedford and Hollis, Prime Butcher in Windham, Lull Farm in Hollis and Durham Marketplace in Durham.

Teresa Stauber opened Simply Delish, where she and her seven-person staff prepare ready-to-go dishes for wholesale and retail sale in a commercial kitchen at the mill building, last November. She had previously rented out the kitchen of Two Friends Café in Goffstown since 2007 and sold her goods at local farmers markets.

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Stauber's business began to take off soon after she brought her pasta and potato salads to the Meat House in Bedford last March. "Then one store picked them up after another," Stauber said. "We just went crazy with sales and felt we needed to open up our own kitchen."

Stauber's kitchen uses 900 pounds of potatoes — the sweet potatoes are all hand cut — and close to 400 pounds of pasta weekly. She recently traded in her 8- by 10-foot walk-in refrigerator for a larger model to allow for even more growth.

"We're just trying to move forward," she said.

Stauber, a former nurse, said she always knew she would end up in the food business at some point.

"I thought about opening a café but then went into a business like this to be home with my children," said the mother of eight-year-old twins.

Growing up in Brooklyn exposed Stauber to diverse cuisines, and after moving to New Hampshire nine years ago she saw that Granite Staters enjoyed variety.

"I really enjoy what I do and I'm happy there are people out there that like to try new food," Stauber said.

As Stauber's business grew, so did her menu of original recipes. Feta orzo salad is one of her most popular offerings, as is her quiche, which was recently named "Best of New Hampshire." Most of the inspiration for her dishes, Stauber said, comes from food blogs and magazines.

Four kinds of potato salad are now offered at Simply Delish: bacon cheddar (made with two kinds of cheddar cheese, red potatoes and white potatoes), three-potato (made with red, white and sweet potatoes), German potato salad (made with red potatoes) and a traditional version made with peeled white potatoes and mayonnaise.

With the exception of the traditional potato salad, Stauber opts to keep the skins on to maintain the nutritional value of the tuber and for added flavor. She also chooses to steam them rather than boil them as another way to keep their nutrients intact.

Vegan barbecue

'Making food and having fun' in Northfield

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

The burgers and shish kabobs sizzling on the grill at an upcoming community barbecue in Northfield will appeal to vegans, vegetarians and omnivores alike, said event organizer Louisa Dell' Amico.

"You can make just about anything that people rely on using meat or dairy products for and make a vegan version of it," Dell' Amico said. "A lot of times omnivores can't even tell the difference."

Divine Burgers, New Hampshire-made unprocessed vegan burgers made with whole grains, will be served at the Vegan Barbecue/Picnic at Pines Park in Northfield on Saturday, July 2, at 1 p.m. The shish kabobs will be skewers of vegan sausage slices, onions, green peppers, mushrooms and zucchini. Dell' Amico will marinate the vegetables in oil, vinegar and garlic

Stauber adds flavor and a creamier texture to her coleslaw by making it with sour cream instead of mayonnaise.

Menu items include Arancini (fried Italian rice balls made with provolone, mozzarella and parmesan cheese) and Potato Croquettes (fried mashed potatoes seasoned with sautéed garlic, parmesan cheese, provolone, prosciutto and mozzarella), both of which Stauber said she grew up on in Brooklyn. Stauber also offers six gourmet pasta salads, including tri-colored tortellini salad made with fresh pesto and Southwestern Rotini, which Stauber said pairs well with chicken or fish, especially grilled shrimp. If meat is not your thing, she said the pasta dish, made with black beans, corn, scallions and smoked paprika, could be a meal in itself.

All dishes are vegetarian, with the exception of a select few made using bacon.

"A lot of vegetarians go into The Meat House just for our products," Stauber said.

Stauber said what makes her product stand out from other premade side dishes is that while most companies make products that boast a shelf life of 30 days, her products have a shelf life of less than two weeks because they are made with natural preservatives — lemon, citric acid, sugar and apple cider vinegar. All Simply Delish products are made on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to be distributed weekly on Thursdays.

"I go with better quality because I eat this food myself ... and feed it to my family," Stauber said.

In addition to selling her products in 16- and 32-ounce containers for retail and in bulk for wholesale accounts, Stauber does bulk catering for office parties and will lend her dishes to the spread at a wedding this summer. Some ready-to-go items are kept in a cooler for customers who stop by the kitchen.

"If people call ahead [on Tuesday or Wednesday] and let us know they are coming, we will have extra products ready for them," Stauber said.

overnight.

Dell' Amico, who has been a vegetarian for 41 years and a vegan on and off for 20, organized the meatless and dairyless event because she has an interest in educating the public about making healthy dietary choices through the food itself instead of by preaching nutritional science.

"This barbecue will just be about making food and having fun," Dell' Amico said.

Among the other dishes that event-goers are planning to bring to the potluck picnic are vegan lasagna (made with cashew ricotta), vegan coleslaw (made with dairy-free mayonnaise), Boston Baked Beans (made without pork) and mock tuna sandwiches (made with a chickpea base and mixed with onions, celery and dairy-free mayonnaise). Pistachio rosewater cookies and mango sorbet with raspberry sauce will be served for dessert.

While tofu can be grilled, Dell' Amico

FOOD

said she is trying to avoid serving it at the barbecue because the traditional vegetarian dish, made from edamame, is actually a highly processed food.

"Can you imagine how much processing has to take place to take a green soy bean and make it into a dense, white cube?" she said.

Dell' Amico said people who do not regularly work vegan or vegetarian dishes into their diet should try to approach the barbecue with an open mind.

"There is nothing that we make that tastes exactly like meat, but we can offer a lot of alternatives that are similar," Dell' Amico said, noting the vegan sausages, Divine Burgers and mock tuna sandwiches. "It's good to start out with foods you are somewhat familiar with or that mimic the animal-based foods you are familiar with."

Some creatively made vegan and vegetarian dishes also serve as a way to disguise vegetables for picky children, she added. "I make a pumpkin smoothie, which tastes like pumpkin pie, and kids would never know they are eating pumpkin," Dell' Amico said.

Dell' Amico noted that some people may shy away from eating fresh vegetables if they were raised on canned vegetables. "[Canned vegetables] taste really horrible," she said. "They're so overcooked and all the delicious flavor of fresh vegetables has been removed."

"I never had a canned vegetable until I was an adult and I was shocked ... I can't blame people who grew up with canned vegetables for feeling like they don't like vegetables," she continued, adding that all dishes served at the event will be made using fresh produce.



Louisa Dell' Amico. Courtesy photo.

While the Northfield area does not boast a large vegan or vegetarian population, Dell' Amico said there are many in the Concord and Laconia areas who have shown interest in the lifestyle and the event.

"I just want people to feel welcome regardless of their dietary choices," she said. "It's a great opportunity to learn about the alternatives that exist to an animal-based diet."

Vegan barbecue/picnic

When: Saturday, July 2, at 1 p.m.

Where: Pines Park in Northfield

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Farmers markets

- **AMHERST** at the Village Green on Church Street, Thursdays through October from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- **AMHERST — ST. PAUL** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3 Craftsman Lane, www.stpaul-amherst.org, on Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m.
- **ATKINSON** at the Atkinson Community Center parking lot, 4 Main St., www.awcc-nh.org/awcc/Farmers_Market.html, Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. starting June 29.
- **BARRINGTON** at Routes 9 and 125 across from Calef's Country

Store, on Saturdays through September, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **BEDFORD** at Benedictine Park off Route 101 on Wallace Road, www.bedfordfarmersmarket.org, Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., June 21 through Oct. 25.
- **CANTERBURY** in the Elkins Library parking lot on Center Road, ccfina.net, Wednesdays from 4 to 6:30 p.m. through October.
- **CONTOOCOOK** at Fountain Square in front of the train depot, (find them on Facebook), Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, from June 18 through Oct. 15.
- **CONCORD** on Capitol Street next to the Statehouse, on Satur-

days, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

- **CONCORD — THE HEIGHTS** at Stove Barn, 249 Loudon Road in Concord, www.facebook.com/HeightsFarmersMarket, on Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m.
- **DEERFIELD** at the Arts & Crafts Building, Deerfield Fair Grounds, entrance on Route 43, farmersmarket.deerfield-nh.us, on Fridays, from 3 to 7 p.m., June 10 through Sept. 23.
- **DERRY** at Derry Park Park on West Broadway, www.derry.nh.us, on Wednesdays, 3 to 7 p.m., July 6 through Sept. 28.
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continued from page 34

and neglected children in the court system.

• Learn how to select healthy ingredients and make dishes to improve your health:

The Celery Stick Café at the Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, www.concordfoodcoop.coop will host a “Fresh Ideas for Healthy Living” store tour on Tuesday, July 19, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. During the free event, guests will be guided down store aisles by Co-op Wellness Coordinator and Health & Beauty Manager Lori Myers, who will point out unusual, local and ethnic items and explain how to integrate them into your cooking. Laura Piazza, author of *Recipes for Repair*, will present “Super Recipes: Cooking for Lyme & Inflammatory Disease” at the Co-op on Thursday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required for both programs. Call the Co-op or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop

concordfoodcoop.coop.

• Wine dinner on the deck: 900 Degrees Pizzeria, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, www.900degrees.com, will host a wine dinner on Wednesday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. The four-course meal will feature seasonal melons and fresh blueberries paired with Zardetto Prosecco; hummus with fresh pita with Villa Antinori Bianco; shrimp and broccolini alfredo pizza with William Hill Chardonnay; herb chicken breast with Evodia Grenache, and peach and almond crisp with Dr. Loosen Riesling. The dinner is \$29.95 per person and reservations are required.

• Closed for repairs: Cotton, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, www.cotton-food.com, will be closed Monday, July 4 through Monday, July 11, for repairs and maintenance.

coastgrowers.org, on Wednesdays, 2:15 to 6 p.m., through Oct. 12.

• DURHAM Mill Road Plaza, www.seacoastgrowers.org, on Mondays from 2:15 to 5:30 p.m. through Oct. 3.

• EXETER held at Swasey Parkway on Thursday from 2:15 to 5:30 p.m. See www.seacoastgrowers.org.

• HAMPTON Sacred Heart Church School parking lot, 289 Lafayette Road, www.seacoastgrowers.org, on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m., through Oct. 11.

• HENNIKER 931 Flanders Road, www.hennikerfarmersmarket.us, Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m., July through October.

• HILLSBOROUGH at Butler Park, counter of Main and Central streets, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, July through September.

• HOOKSETT at 1292 Hooksett Road near Dunkin’ Donuts and Walgreen’s, (find them on Facebook) Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m., July 6 through Sept. 28.

• JAFFREY Coll’s Farmstand parking lot on Old Sharon Road off Route 202, Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, July through September.

• LACONIA City Hall parking lot on Beacon Street, www.laconiafarmersmarket.com, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, June 25 through Oct. 1.

• LACONIA — MAIN STREET Municipal parking lot between Main and Pleasant streets (find them on Facebook), Thursdays, 3 to 7 p.m. through October.

• LEE Old Fire Station on Route 155, Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m., through Sept.

• MANCHESTER held on Concord Street near Victory Park in the downtown area will open for the season on Thurs., June 16, and run Thursdays from 3 to 6:30 p.m. through Oct. 20.

• MERRIMACK at Tractor Supply Co., 515 DW Highway, Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., through Sept. 28.

• MILFORD at Granite Town Plaza on Elm Street, www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, June 18 through Oct.

• NASHUA — SUNDAY The Main Street Bridge Farmers Market

in Nashua will run Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 23.

• NASHUA — FRIDAY The City Hall Plaza Farmers Market in Nashua runs Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. weekly through Sept. 30.

• NEW BOSTON Town Common, www.newbostonfarmersmarket.webs.com or find them on Facebook, Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon through October.

• NEWMARKET Carpenter’s Old English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St., on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., June through September.

• NORTHWOOD the junction of Routes 4, 43 and 202/9, northwoodfarmersmarket.blogspot.com, Thursdays, 3 to 6:30 p.m., through October.

• NOTTINGHAM at Blaisdell Memorial Library, Sundays through October, 1 to 4 p.m.

• PENACOOK Rolfe Homestead, 11 Penacook St., Mondays from 4:30 to 7 p.m., June 20 through October.

• PETERBOROUGH in Depot Square, www.peterboroughfarmersmarket.webs.com, on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. through October.

• PLAISTOW 145 Main St., Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m., Aug. 4 through Oct. 20.

• PORTSMOUTH held in the City Hall lot at 1 Junkins Ave. on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. See www.seacoastgrowers.org.

• RYE Rye Center, across from the public library, ryeturninggreen.com/farmers-market, on Wednesdays, June 22 through Sept. 28, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

• SALEM Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake St., www.salemnh-farmersmarket.com. Check website for information on summer market, which is scheduled to run July 10 through Oct. 30.

• TEMPLE at the Town Common on Route 45 Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October.

• TILTON — TANGER OUTLETS at exit 20 off Interstate 93 on Wednesdays, June 22 through Sept. 21, from 3 to 6 p.m.

• WARNER Town Hall Lawn, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through October.

• WEARE the We Are 1 Farmers Market is at the Gazebo, Fridays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. through Oct.

7. A winter market will run Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. at 290 Quaker St. See www.weare1farmersmarket.org.

Food maps/tours

• FOOD MAPS The NH chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association offers maps (available in print from NOFA-NH at 224-5022 or info@nofanh.org or in an interactive version at www.nofanh.org) showing locations of organically produced foods across the state. Online, click “Organic Farms and Land Care.” The site lists farms by region and can narrow down the search by type of food.

• ICE CREAM TRAIL Granite State Dairy Promotion has released its “New Hampshire Ice Cream Trail,” a map highlighting New Hampshire shops and stands that use New Hampshire dairy products in their ice cream. For copies of the map call 271-3696 or e-mail gsdp@comcast.net. The map is also available at www.nhdairypromo.org.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• MARTHA GREENLAW Gibson’s Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, www.gibsons-bookstore.com, will host Linda and Martha Greenlaw, authors of *The Maine Summers Cookbook*, at O Steaks and Seafood, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, www.magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com, on Tues., July 5, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The event will feature dishes from the cookbook prepared by O’s chefs.

• BEN HEWITT author of *Making Supper Safe* will visit Gibson’s Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, www.gibsonsbookstore.com, on Fri., July 15, at 6 p.m.

• NH WINE FESTIVAL The New Hampshire Winery Association will hold its second NH Wine Festival on Sat., Aug. 6, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Rochester Fairgrounds in Rochester. Tickets cost \$20 per person and give you 10 tasting tickets to try wine from 17 Granite state wineries. The event will also feature New Hampshire made eats. See www.nhwineryassociation.com.

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BEST OF 2011

DRINK

Malbec

Cahors & families of the vine

By Paulette Eschrich
food@hippopress.com

Most consumers associate wines made from the Malbec grape with Argentina. The French connection, both in Bordeaux and the more southern region of Cahors, is perhaps less well known. Red Bordeaux wines can be made from any combination of five grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. Before phylloxera, an aphid that dines on the roots of grapevines, ravaged the vineyards in Europe in the late 1800s, Malbec was a component in many Bordeaux blends. When the phylloxera epidemic, Malbec's star was in decline and the vines were often replaced with the more popular Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

Cahors, located in southwest France, has always been dedicated to Malbec or, as it is known locally, Cot or Auxerrois. The rivers from the region flow toward the port of Bordeaux, making that the obvious trade route. In Bordeaux, the exporters and negotiants (those who buy wine and sell it under their name) bought low and sold high to the disadvantage of the wineries in Cahors. Although wines from the region had been prized since the 13th century for their deep saturated black color, the devastation from phylloxera created a major setback. When railways opened the southern regions of Languedoc to the more populous north of France, their cheap and plentiful wines replaced those from Cahors on merchants' shelves.

In *Families of the Vine: Seasons Among the Winemakers of Southwest France* by Michael Sanders readers have the opportunity to meet three families who are striving to revive the reputation of Cahors. Each family has taken a different approach but they share a passion for their wines and the unique history and terroir of Cahors. Sanders follows in the winemakers' footsteps as they meet the challenges of tending to their vineyards, nurturing their wines through fermentation and aging, and creating a market presence for traditional Malbec. Those who are intrigued by the role oak plays in the finished wine will particularly enjoy the chapter devoted to visiting a local barrel cooper.

For the book club I decided to do two flights. In the first blind flight we compared a Cahors from one of the families profiled in the book, Clos La Coutale, with Malbecs from Argentina and California. In the second flight the Clos La Coutale was tasted with another Cahors and a French Malbec from Pays D'Oc. All of the wines were purchased at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet in Nashua on Coliseum Avenue.

2008 Clos La Coutale, Cahors (NH Code 40363) \$16.99. Philippe Bernede caters to the international wine consumer

who wants a wine that is ready to drink — lighter, softer and less tannic than traditional Cahors. He travels widely as an ambassador for not only his wines but Cahors as well. The deeply saturated, almost black wine starts off with a subtle aroma of cocoa, cedar and earth. The fruit lingers in the background, enticing but never taking charge, and yet it was the wine we all kept going back to. Definitely more of a food wine, it paired beautifully with Gorgonzola cheese.

2008 Xumek Sol Huarpe Malbec, Argentina (NH Code 13088) \$21.99. This deep purple wine from Argentina delivers the bright blackberry that has converted red wine drinkers all over America to Malbec. It exhibits smooth tannins, good acidity and layers of hot chocolate and a touch of licorice on the finish. Where the Coutale was best with food, this wine stands on its own as a sipper after a hard day at work or to share with friends on Friday night. Also available at WineNot Boutique in Nashua.

2009 Clayhouse Vineyard Malbec, Paso Robles, Calif. (NH Code 13154) \$15.99. Blended from 93 percent Malbec, 2 percent Petit Verdot, 2 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 1 percent Mourvedre, 1 percent Syrah and 1 percent Grenache, this Malbec comes from the Central Coast of California. As one might expect, the American Malbec displayed the most fruit, softest tannins and the highest alcohol. Blackberry, black cherry and black raspberry dominate the nose and palate of this rich garnet-hued wine. Of the wines we tasted, this was probably the most approachable.

2007 Brise de France Reserve Malbec, Pays D'Oc (NH Code 14976) \$13.99. At under \$15, this was the surprise of the night. The nose elicits wild black fruit, and it delivers layers of dark chocolate and cigar box. Although I have read reviews that say a wine can smell like graphite and pencil shavings, this is the first time I actually discerned those characteristics. A perfect choice to pair with your summer barbecue menu, especially burgers with all the trimmings.

And following up on my theme from last week's column, my leftover Malbec (Brise de France) was used to make a classic wine cocktail: Lord Charles. I followed a recipe on eHow from Christopher Godwin. According to Godwin, "a properly prepared Lord Charles cocktail will have a deep amber color, and it will have a look similar to a glass of black or orange pekoe iced tea." In addition to Malbec, the cocktail ingredients are dry sherry, fresh lemon juice, simple syrup and club soda served on the rocks in a highball glass. It was positively delightful and refreshing!

Paulette Eschrich works at LaBelle Winery in New Hampshire and leads a monthly wine book club at WineNot Boutique in Nashua.

DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

Just as July 4 unites Americans from the political left and the right, so can rosés unite red and white wine lovers at your barbecue or picnic this long holiday weekend. In honor of Independence Day and the versatility of rosé as a summer drink, we decided to look back at some of our favorites.

Last week, we found a good one that retails, even in grocery stores, for less than \$10 — the **2010 Vin de Pays C'Est La Vie Syrah Rosé** from France. It's hot pink in color and has aromas and flavors of strawberries and cotton candy but isn't sugary.

Another great deal — we got it for about \$8 — was the **2008 Pacifico Surf Carmenere Rosé** from Central Valley in Chile. This wine has a bit of tartness, like a sauvignon blanc but round at the end, like a red wine. This wine is a redder rosé that mellows as the bottle is open,

with a subtle sweetness.

The **2010 Terrasses Chateau Pesquie** is another wine that offers those summer flavors — watermelon and strawberry. This wine is a dry rosé but round, with those summer berry flavors, and balanced, with good amounts of acid.

The **2010 Vieux Clocher Cotes Du Rhone rosé**

looked and tasted pink — “You’d imagine pink tastes like this,” said the serious wine lover. The wine had a cheery mix of both strawberry and watermelon flavors, sweet but with a fresh tartness at the end.

Each week in “Red, White & Green,” two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings

Breweries/Distilleries/Cider

- **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.
- **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com
- **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m. For private tours, call 430-8600 ext. 327.
- **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.
- **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckermanbrewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.

Classes/workshops on beer/wine tasting

- **WINE CLASS** WineNot Boutique, 170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, www.winenotboutique.com, will hold “A Practical Wine Class from a Serious Expert” on Thurs., June 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class will focus on such topics as wine lingo, how to talk to sommeliers, how to choose wine for a large group, pairing with confidence and

why sommeliers taste all wines at room temperature. The class costs \$35 and includes a blind tasting of six wines. E-mail winenotboutique@yahoo.com to register.

- **WINE SOCIETY** (650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us) offers classes for wine-lovers of all levels. New sessions start every few months. Call for upcoming schedule.

Special wine tastings

- **WINE MOVIES** The Wine Studio, 53 Hooksett Road #4, Manchester, 622-9463, www.thewinestudionh.com, will host movie nights on Wednesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. Movies that will be shown this season include *Wine from the Heart* (July 13). Guests are encouraged to bring a camp chair and snacks to the show. Wine related to the movie will also be served. Tickets cost \$20.
- **NH WINE FESTIVAL** The New Hampshire Winery Association will hold its second NH Wine Festival on Sat., Aug. 6, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Rochester Fairgrounds in Rochester. Tickets cost \$20 per person and give you 10 tasting tickets to try wine from 17 Granite state wineries. The event will also feature New Hampshire-made eats. See www.nhwineryassociation.com.

Weekly/monthly tastings

- **BUTTER'S** Weekly wine-tastings at Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 N. Main St., Concord, 225-5995, Thursdays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Some tastings are held Fridays as well.
- **DOVER WINE STORE** 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-WINE (9463), www.doverwine.com, on Fridays, 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.
- **THE DRINK SHOPPE** 214 Central St., Hudson, 578-1130, www.thedrinkshoppe.net, holds a free beer and steak tasting Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.
- **DURHAM MARKETPLACE** 7 Mill Road, Durham, 868-2500,

holds wine tasting on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS

Enjoy weekly wine tastings — Friday Night Flights — at several area state liquor stores where Reidel stemware will be for sale for \$3.99 per glass for the tasting. Tastings will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at Capitol Shopping Center, 80 Storrs St. in Concord; 417 S. Broadway in Salem; Market Basket Plaza, Route 125 in Plaistow, and Merrimack Village Center, 6 Dobson Way in Merrimack. Tastings will run from 5 to 7 p.m. at North Side Plaza, 31 Hamel Drive in Manchester; Bedford Grove Plaza, 5 Colby Court in Bedford, and 27 Coliseum Ave. in Nashua.

- **NH LIQUOR STORES** statewide host wine-tastings and promotional events. See www.nh.gov/liquor/mktevent.shtml.

• **SIDEWAYS TASTING** WineNot?, 70 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, will hold a “sideways” wine tasting on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. The tastings will present wines from an individual distributor to be tasted side by side.

• **WINE SOCIETY** (18 Pondview Place in Tyngsboro, Mass., 978-649-8993; 650 Amherst St. #9 in Nashua, 883-4114; www.winesociety.us). Membership in the Society costs \$30 and includes discount on wines and Society events, which include weekly and monthly wine tastings, wine and food pairings and classes on wine varietals.

• **WINE STEWARD** 201 Route 111, Hampstead, holds tastings every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 329-4634 or visit www.thewinestewardnh.com.

• **THE WINE STUDIO** 53 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 622-9463, holds weekly tastings on Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. First Thursday of each month includes an artist reception. See www.thewinestudionh.com.

• **WINE & JAZZ** The Barley House, 132 N. Main St. in Concord, will pair wine with live jazz on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 6 p.m.

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lp@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to lists@hippopress.com.

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POP CULTURE:

CDS

**White Wives, *Happeners*
Adeline Records, June 28**



Like Kaiser Chiefs upfitted with good songs and a case of Four Loko, Pennsylvania pub-punkers White Wives stand unafraid of melody, essentially conjuring a vision of what a young Springsteen would be if he had to make a name for himself today. There's early Clash going on in "Paper Chaser," but overall the key to this entire album is the desperately resolved "Sky Started Crying," a Bruce-ized, sped-up take on Airborne Toxic

Event's "The Kids Are Ready to Die," an angsty melody that pops up constantly here. "Another City For A New Weekend" is further '80s-accurate post-punk, this time vision of Lords of the New Church as an oi band. Though definitely tougher than The Hives, nothing on board is so obnoxious as to threaten the straights — no more so than Dropkick Murphys — thus I can assure you that this will permeate every corner of date-night backgrounding, from Cineplex lobbies to Red Lobsters, and it'll be welcome, absolutely, even though it'll drive me mental trying to remember who they are, I can just fricking see it now. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

**Bela Fleck and The Flecktones, *Rocket Science*
Entertainment One Music, May 10**



Dig as I might, I can't find absolute proof that banjo-superstar Bela Fleck is married to other-banjo-superstar Abigail Washburn; it's a Jack-and-Meg sort of thing that smacks of a major media punking. But OK, at the very least we can say that Fleck is to banjo what Chick Corea is to piano, and that his original "throw-together" band is "back," not that they ever strayed too far. Despite the "Flecktones" nym's tendency to

evoke some sort of alternative half-joke-band, the Flecktones' trip is/was a sort of redneck-prog Return to Forever, space-shot stun-guitars replaced by Howard Levy's (who's been out of this band for 20 years 'til now) whiz-bang harmonica runs (as witnessed here in "Half Moon Bay"). This is a roots return of sorts for Fleck, providing listeners with a simultaneous dose of pure bluegrass and pure jazz fusion, unique stuff that'd serve as perfect backgrounding to long summer drives into the wilderness (it's already stored in my car for that exact purpose). **A** —Eric W. Saeger



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Much as I make fun of her, **Katy Perry**'s people were nice enough to offer me a pass to go see her TD Garden show on June 18. However, I didn't go. I'd asked for two passes, see, because it was supposed to be a "night out" thing as well as a writing opportunity — I am not a young unmarried man-dolescent eager to sacrifice a Saturday night standing next to the guy from the Boston Globe making Katy Perry boobie jokes when we're not trying to outcool each other with our tenuous knowledge of boring new geek-rock bands, all just so I'll be inspired to make a few snarkful observations in print so Katy Perry will maybe sell an extra 50 more albums in the Granite State. Basically what I'm saying is, wow, everyone's so fricking cheap nowadays, and if Katy Perry's PR guy is reading this, just think of how awesome it would have been for me to make a few boobie jokes in this space.

- Gahh, it's the Fourth of July, meaning no one but a few heavy metal bands have albums coming out, because every single person you and I know is in a heavy metal band at one point or another so why not the Fourth of July. Meantime, since people get absolutely plastered on this popular American holiday, the record labels will re-release a bunch of old nonsense, because moonlighting drunks will think the albums are new and accidentally buy them. This year those albums include **Paul McCartney**'s 2001 LP *Driving Rain* and **Ten Years After**'s *Space in Time*.

- Hairy-armpitted nu-metal dingbats **Pop Evil** have their second album *War of Angels* coming out next week, and from that small amount of information you'd assume they're probably some ironic Christian-metal outfit that attracts chicks who buy "promise rings" the same day they get tramp-stamped. But no, Pop Evil is simply a band who ripped off the Matchbox Twenty sound to get their requisite 60 trillion MySpace hits on a tune from their first album, so now all that's left for them to accomplish is continuing to rip off Seether and what-not, in their new song "Last Man Standing," which apparently refers to the size of the crowd that will remain at the end of their inevitable Warped Tour set.

- Swedish doom-goth sockpuppets **Draconian** started out as a black metal band before finally noticing that everyone in their entire country was in a black metal band. So, being rebellious, they slowed everything down, added some awful poetry spoken in an Anton LaVey voice, hired some chick singers, and voila, utter, utter slop that probably makes the Fields of the Nephilim guy regret ever having invented the genre. Their new album *A Rose for the Apocalypse* will be out Tuesday and promises to include violins, because you can't have a Fourth of July pig-roast without some pancake-make-up art student fumbling away at a few entry-level Itzhak Perlman riffs. —Eric W. Saeger

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It's no joke —

New Hampshire is hilarious!



Inside Headliners Comedy Club. Courtesy photo.

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Some of the funniest people on television and in movies — Adam Sandler, Seth Meyers, Sarah Silverman and Mike O'Malley — once called the 603 home. Open mikes are grooming the next generation in southern New Hampshire. One of the driving forces is the Headliners Comedy Club.

Rob Steen, owner of the club, has been booking comedians for close to 25 years; he began in Manchester in the late 1980s. He is a comedian himself, having appeared on Comedy Central and *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Over the years his stable of comics has grown to 300, making his the largest agency in New England. He booked early gigs for Dane Cook.

There are several bars — The Shaskeen in Manchester, Fody's Tavern in Nashua and The Rusty Hammer in Portsmouth — that have open-mike nights, which are great testing grounds for young comedians. Steen said a young comic must first make his friends laugh at a keg party. Then, if he has enough courage, he can perform at an open mike. Steen said he often plucks the best talent from these open mikes and directs it to clubs around New England.

But what does Steen look for in a young comic?

"The first thing I look for is stage presence," Steen said. "Then it is all about the quality of the material."

The final ingredient for Steen is cleanliness. He said in New Hampshire people don't

want to hear vulgarity. The jokes can be dirty but shouldn't be too profane. "It's not what you say, it's how you say it," Steen said.

Steen likened the occasional swear to adding seasoning to a steak. A steak is good on its own, but with the right amount of seasoning it can be perfect. But too much and it can be ruined.

"Sometimes the audience can turn its ear and only hear the profanity," Steen said.

When to swear depends a lot on the gig, and a good comedian needs to be able to perform in any environment. Steen said this can be a club, a college, a corporation or a fundraiser. Steen said New England comedians have access to all of these types of gigs, which is why it is one of the only markets in the country where a comedian can work full-time.

"You can do comedy every night of the week in New England," Steen said.

Steen said there may be 400 to 500 comedians in Boston alone and they are some of the best in the country. Many of them couldn't afford to live in the city, which has helped generate an influx of funny people in New Hampshire.

Steen said it also helps that there are so many colleges in the region, which means there are smart people around, and there are a lot of corporations and businesses and large cities. Steen said comedians from rural areas aren't always well liked in cities, but city comedians usually find success in rural areas.

However, the Internet is changing that. Now comedians can tape their act at home and send it to Comedy Central via YouTube, just like Massachusetts' Bo Burnham, who is now one of the channel's biggest stars.

The Internet has also helped keep comedians honest, according to Steen, because they can't recycle easy jokes — people would have seen them on the Web and feel cheated, especially if they pay \$20 to see the show.

Headliners Comedy Club

Who: Paul Gilligan, Rob Steen and Mike Prior

When: Saturday, July 9, at 8:30 p.m.

Where: Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, 625-1000

Tickets: \$20

More info: www.headlinerscomedyclub.com

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- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.lib.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Borders**
76 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 224-1255; borders.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com.

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhhc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord, www.nh.gov/nhsl
- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd., Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org

• Rivier College

420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.
• **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

- **PAUL BROGAN** will discuss his memoir *Was That a Name I Dropped?* on Thurs., June 30, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.
- **ROY BLOUNT JR** discusses *Alpha Better Juice: or, The Joy of Text* on Thurs., July 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Spotlight Café in the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, as part of the Writers in the Spotlight series hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. General admission; all tickets cost \$6; order now online, by phone, or in person at the box office or Gibson's.
- **JANE BROX** will talk about her book *Brilliant* on Thurs., July 14, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **BEN HEWITT** will talk about *Making Supper Safe* on Fri., July 15, at 6 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.
- **LOCAL AUTHORS SERIES** at Manchester City Library continues with Darcy Scott, a former symphony orchestra marketing director, talking about her debut novel, *Hunter Huntress*, on Tues., July 19, at 7 p.m. Manchester City Library Foundation member Joe Smiga, author of two novels and the memoir *Tova, a Very Special Dog*, will host a workshop on writing and publishing your own work on Thurs., Aug. 25, at 7 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.
- **BEN MEZRICH** will be at The Music Hall in Portsmouth on Thurs., July 21, at 7:30 p.m., as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series held in collaboration with New Hampshire Public Radio. Tickets cost \$13 per event. Buy in person at 28 Chestnut St., by phone at 433-3100 or at www.themusichall.org. Mezrich is the author of *The Accidental Billionaires* (the book that inspired the film *The Social Network*) and most recently *Sex on the Moon: The Amazing Story Behind the Most Audacious Heist in History*.
- **MICHAEL LEVY** will talk about *Kosher Chinese* on Thurs., July 28, at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore.

Lectures and discussions

- **INTERMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS: A FATHER'S VOICE AND A BOY'S REMEMBRANCES** presented by Dr. David Sakura, a third-generation Japanese-American whose family was involuntarily detained at the Camp Harmony and Minidoka internment facilities after the outbreak of WWII, on Tues., July 5, at 7 p.m. at the Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, 77 Center St., www.wrightmuseum.org. Admission \$5. RSVPs strongly encouraged to ensure sufficient seating; call 569-1212 to reserve a seat.
- **THE ROLE OF THE U.S. POST OFFICE** presented by Don Hargy, retired, U.S. Postal Service, on Tues., July 19, at 7 p.m. at the Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, 77 Center St., www.wrightmuseum.org. This presentation explores the challenges faced by the Post Office Department in getting mail to servicemen throughout the world during wartime and reviews the many roles the Post Office played in supporting

BOOKS

the war effort. Admission \$5. RSVPs strongly encouraged to ensure sufficient seating; call 569-1212 to reserve a seat.

• **ECHOES FROM THE PAST—PRESERVING HISTORY** presented by Paul D. Bagley, author of *Crosses in the Sky*, offering an in-depth look at one of the key weapons of WWII, the B-17. on Tues., Aug. 2, at 7 p.m. at the Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, 77 Center St., www.wrightmuseum.org. This presentation will feature rare images from the attack on Pearl Harbor and photographs showing the air war in Europe as it is seldom seen. Admission \$5. RSVPs strongly encouraged to ensure sufficient seating; call 569-1212 to reserve a seat.

• **LETTERS HOME** Correspondence from Sgt. John S. DuQuoin, 743rd Tank Battalion, presented by John Warner IV, DuQuoin's nephew, on Tues., Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, 77 Center St., www.wrightmuseum.org. At age 38, John S. DuQuoin made the landing at Omaha Beach and saw extensive action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. His nephew will read excerpts from his extensive letters to his family and share his insights into basic training, combat, politics and the home front. Admission \$5. RSVPs strongly encouraged to ensure sufficient seating; call 569-1212 to reserve a seat.

• **DAVID BROOKS** will be the keynote speaker at the NH Humanities Council's 2011 Annual Dinner on Tues., Oct. 25, at the Radisson Center of NH in Manchester. Brooks has been a columnist for the NY Times since Sept. 2003 and has been a senior editor at The Weekly Standard and a contributing editor at Newsweek and Atlantic Monthly. He is the author of *Bobos in Paradise* and *The Social Animal*. Tickets for the annual dinner cost \$100 and support the hundreds of free events the NHHC makes possible each year. Buy tickets at www.nhhc.org.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (please call in advance). Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info.

• **BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY** book discussion group focuses on current literature on Buddhist topics, meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy is invited to join: www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha.

• **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, www.smythpl.org.

• **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome. July: *Summer*, by Edith Wharton.

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are

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25% off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Monday, July 11, *The Slap*, by Christos Tsiolkas.

• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** evening book group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

• **GOFFSTOWN LIBRARY** afternoon book group meets Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., open to any interested teen or adult.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** book group meets the second Wed. each month at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** teen book group is for ages 13-18. Usually meets Wed. evenings.

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** Tuesday morning book group meets the second Tues. of every month in the morning — this is the only book group sponsored by the library that meets at the library. No sign-up required. Call or visit www.hollis.nh.us/library for the book selection of the month.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of the Nashua Public Library. New members welcome.

• **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. July: no meeting. Aug. 10: *Postmistress*, by Sarah Blake.

• **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

• **WARNER AREA BOOK CLUB** meets on certain Sundays at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner. All are welcome; call Jen at 456-3021 or e-mail Jennkane@tds.net to sign up.

In the spotlight



Why you should go see Roy Blount Jr.

10. His new book *Alphabetter Juice: or, The Joy of Text*, has

funny observations about words and other things. If you go see him, you might get to ask him about the differences between “bearless” and “toadless.”

9. His bio for *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (NPR's “Oddly Informative News Quiz”) refers to him as a “humorist-novelist-journalist-dramatist-lyricist-lecturer-reviewer-screenwriter-anthologist-columnist-philologist.”

8. He knows Carl Kasell.

7. He has performed with the Rock Bottom Remainders, a band that has also included Stephen King, Barbara Kingsolver and Matt Groening.

6. He writes a column for a magazine called *Garden & Gun*.

5. Penguin Books chose him to write the Robert E. Lee book in their “Penguin Life” biography series. Some people liked it and some didn't, but most of the ones who didn't were upset because it was too humorous.

4. He has the right attitude toward the word “hopefully.” See *Alphabet Juice*, page 139.

3. He wrote the poetic text to accompany Valerie Shaff's puppy photos in *I Am Puppy*; *Hear Me Yap: The Ages of Dog* (2000) and *If You Only Knew How Much I Smell You: True Portraits of Dogs* (1998). Also one for cats and one for pigs.

2. Concord gets a spot on Blount's tour, which includes Barnes & Noble on New York's Upper West Side and the Politics & Prose book store in D.C.

1. Only \$6?

Roy Blount Jr. (it's pronounced “Blunt”) will be at the **Spotlight Café** in the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, on **Thursday, July 7**, at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Writers in the Spotlight series hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. General admission; all tickets cost \$6; order now online, by phone, or in person at the box office or Gibson's.

Poetry

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. See poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org or call 332-0732.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at Robert Frost Farm at 122 Rockingham Road in

Derry in the spring and summer (<http://robertfrostfarm.org>). Free and open to the public. An open mike follows the readings. For info, e-mail Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com. Scheduled poets are Lee Briccetti (executive director of Poets House in NYC) on July 14; David Ferry on Aug. 11.

• **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

four summer evenings with authors at the Warner Town Hall (5 East Main St., Warner). Admission is \$7 per event, or \$20 for a series pass. July 16: Christine Shea and Brian Bouldrey. July 30: M.T. Anderson and Patricia Fargnoli. Aug. 13: Edie Clark and Rebecca Rule. Aug. 27: Tom Wessels. Each presentation is followed by a dessert buffet and live music. Call 456-2437 for info. Go to www.warnerhistorical.org for tickets, directions, and details about the authors.

• **Library fee increase:** On July 1, the fee for a nonresident library card at Manchester City Library will increase to \$50. Library cards are free to anyone who lives, works, attends school or owns property in Manchester. All others can only get a card by paying \$50.

— Lisa Parsons

The Book Report

• **Summer reading program for grown-ups:** Concord Public Library is launching an adult summer reading program themed “Novel Destinations.” The program will run from July 5 to Aug. 25. Read books, rate them and be entered into a raffle to win prizes. Details about program-related events will be posted at the library.

• **Discount card for kids:** Gibson's Bookstore in Concord has a summer reading discount card. After a kid buys and reads five books, he or she gets a free paperback from the kids' section. See store for details.

• **Tory Hill Readers Series returns:** The Warner Historical Society returns with another Tory Hill Readers Series,

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FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13)

Once again Sam Witwicky works with the Autobots to prevent the destruction of the world at the hands of the Decepticons in *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, a deeply horrible movie.

And please note that when I write “a deeply horrible movie” the word in my head between “a” and “horrible” is not “deeply” but something much more Germanic and lively.

The movie opens with an alternate history of the U.S./Russian space race. It's not national pride that is spurring the countries to get to the moon first but the knowledge that something has crash-landed there. Through a collage of archival footage and laughable impersonations of Kennedy and Nixon, we learn that the Apollo astronauts spent their time on the “dark side” of the moon investigating the crash of what we know to be an Autobot ship (a preamble to the human history explains some Autobot/Decepticon history and the last battle of the war on their home planet Cybertron).

Jump to the present day when we see the scantily clad derriere of Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, or as she's better known, not-Megan Fox. That's right, present-day action opens on a butt shot. Michael Bay, you scamp. After several seconds, perhaps a whole minute, of bum, we finally see Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf). He's a recent college grad, living with his new girlfriend Carly (Huntington-Whiteley), to whom the bottom belongs, and desperate to find a

job, particularly since his parents Ron (Kevin Dunn) and Judy (Julie White) are expected soon for a visit. Despite his having saved the world twice and received a “hero medal” from President Obama, nobody's lining up to offer Sam his first gig. Eventually, he settles for a mail room job that he is discouraged to learn was set up for him by Dylan (Patrick Dempsey), Carly's boss.

A word about Dylan: He is, I think, an accountant but his office looks like some World of Tomorrow/2001: A Space Odyssey ride and it's filled with vintage collectable cars and hot assistants, of which Carly is apparently his favorite.

A word about Carly: She has lips like a sofa and tends to wear “dresses” that look more like large belts, and her blonde hair is always doing something (billowing in a heretofore nonexistent breeze, bouncing as she turns her head) that looks unnatural anyplace in the world outside of a shampoo commercial. She is a blonde, British-accent-having empty suit (or, in this case, empty skinny jeans) much like the previous occupant of the franchise's main “girl role” only with about one-fourth the personality of Megan Fox. And maybe half the acting ability. Consider.

So Sam is miserable about all this — about his girlfriend being ogled by her rich boss, about being shut out of the government's operations with the Autobots and mostly about not having a job in life that matters. But then he finds out that Decepticons are active again and he turns to William Lennox (Josh Duhamel), the military officer in

charge of Autobot operations, to try to help prevent a coming crisis.

To explain coherently would be to spoil, so, broadly speaking, Optimus Prime (voice of Peter Cullen) and company check out the ship on the moon, where they find Sentinel Prime (voice of Leonard Nimoy), an old leader of the Autobots who may be a target of Decepticons in their current schemes.

Let me try to replicate the experience of watching this movie for you: Transformers! Moon! Butt! Screaming Sam Witwicky! Funny parents! Sexy cars! Sexy cars that are really transformers! Boom! Blonde hair! Sexual innuendo! More explosions! Bad transformers! Or maybe good transformers, who can tell! More screaming Witwicky! More hair! Explosions! Josh Duhamel! Hey, it's Spock! Ka-boom! Ba-ba-ba-ba-ba, machine guns! American flag!

In there, you'll get some dialogue, about half of which you can actually make out. There's some romantic nonsense that even the movie doesn't try all that hard to make believable. Tyrese Gibson and John Turturro return. Frances McDormand plays the role, required in each movie, of Government Agent Who Just Doesn't Get It. And then, just when you think the movie should be wrapping up and an hour before it actually does, there's that late-second-act dip in action and then the battle that takes up the last 50 minutes or so. It is a grab bag of action movie tropes and highly tanned skin and jokes that all seem kinda mean and occasionally vaguely homophobic and robots. Rather than having a cohesive story line, it feels like somebody just dumped out the bag and strung it all together in random order. You can't always tell who is talking to whom (or, as I said, what they're saying, though sometimes I think screams and grunts really are all the actors have to work with), who is fighting whom, where half the action is taking place or what the hell is going on. At one point, a small group of army soldiers are engaged in the last-stand battle in Chicago. In the background, an elevated train goes by. The buildings are on fire, the streets are filled with dead people, destroyed cars and, yes, even derailed trains but some-

where one of them is still running smoothly?

There is so much more wrong with this movie — seriously, why is Sam screaming all the time? — but rather than going further into why I'm giving this movie its low grade, let's talk about why I'm not giving it an F:

(1) If you are looking for something to provide you with two and a half hours (probably nearly three with trailers) of air conditioning, this movie will do that. Incidentally, so will *The Tree of Life* and even with its art-movie too-muchness it probably makes more sense. But that movie's not playing everywhere so this might be the best thing you've got, ticket-price-to-time-spent-in-air-conditioning-wise.

(2) There are maybe 10 fun minutes toward the end of the climactic battle.

(3) The stuff with the parents is kinda cute.

(4) There is a really good drinking game to be made out of the action and frequency-on-screen of Huntington-Whiteley's hair.

This movie's biggest sin is not that its story is dull and nonsensical or that its characters are uninteresting. The biggest problem with *Dark of the Moon* is that it is not awesome in the way that, as that Fios commercial used to say, Michael Bay usually needs things to be awesome. Bay is all about the explosions that themselves explode and the hysterical, bombastic score and the slow-mo highlighting of action bad-assery. But this movie has none of that giddiness, none of that joy, none of the excitement that can have you delighting at a Bay movie even when you know it's kind of terrible. “Awesome” is all some of those Michael Bay movies have. Without it, *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* has almost nothing to offer. **D**

Rated PG-13 for intense prolonged sequences of sci-fi action violence, mayhem and destruction, and for language, some sexuality and innuendo. Directed by Michael Bay and written by Ehren Kruger; Transformers: Dark of the Moon is two hours and 34 minutes long and is distributed by Paramount Pictures.

Cars 2 (G)

Lightning McQueen and his buddy Mater leave Radiator Springs for an international adventure in *Cars 2*, a rare unspectacular Pixar film.

McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) is still an internationally famous race car, but he now calls Radiator Springs his home base, returning after his races to see girlfriend Sally (Bonnie Hunt) and his rusty and rustic but sweet friend Tow Mater (Larry the Cable Guy). Mater is eager to have his best friend home but also a proud Lightning McQueen fan. So when British truck Sir Miles Axlerod (Eddie Izzard) hosts a race to promote his new biofuel, Mater urges McQueen to take part and race against such global hot shots as Italian Formula One car Francesco Bernoulli (John Turturro).

This requires McQueen and his pit crew to go back on the road, joined, at Sally's suggestion, by an excited Mater. At the first leg of the race in Tokyo, Mater has a run-in with an American spy (Bruce Campbell) and is mistakenly thrust into a James Bondian caper. Aston Martin Finn McMissile (Michael Caine) and, er, girl car Holley Shiftwell (Emily Mortimer) are tracking a group of lemons — junkers from all corners of the car world — who are doing something nefarious out in an off-shore oil field and who always seem to be around as the cars participating in Axlerod's race experience malfunctions. They believe Mater is the American agent who is supposed to help them while Mater thinks Holley is just a pretty car looking for a date. And while Finn thinks Mater's buffoonery is a wise cover, McQueen — ignorant of all the spy-vs.-spy action — simply finds his country friend embarrassing and hurts his buddy's feelings by telling him so.

Thus we have the two big struggles of this movie: (1) The fight between good and evil cars who are causing trouble surrounding Axlerod's race and (2) The question of Mater's goofy personality and is it what makes him loveable or something he has to change. Both of these plots seem beyond the interest and attention span of the kind of kids who

Reviewlets: Snack-sized movie reviews

* Indicates a movie worth seeking out. Previously reviewed movies have grades. For full reviews of most movies here or movies previously released, go to www.hippopress.com.

**Bridesmaids* (R)

Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph. Wiig-written, Judd Apatow-pro-

duced, Paul Fieg-directed totally awesome lady comedy. Or, if the words “bridesmaids” and “lady” are scaring you away: hilarious people are in hilarious situations with swearing and poop. **B+**

**Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (G)

Werner Herzog. The idiosyncratic director gives

us this documentary about the Chauvet Cave in France, which contains cave paintings some 30,000 years old. The loveliness of the images — particularly in 3-D — is what makes this movie special. **B+**

Larry Crowne (PG-13)

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts.

After being laid off, Tom Hanks decides to expand his skills by heading to college and a class taught by one Julia Roberts. It's your grown-up alternative for the July 4th weekend. Opens Friday, July 1.

Monte Carlo (PG)

Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester.

An American teenager slumming it through Europe with her friends gets tangled up in some mistaken identity fun and ends up living the high life. Opens Friday, July 1.

**Super 8* (PG-13)

Kyle Chandler, Joel Courtney. Boys making a zombie movie witness a train crash in small-

town Ohio and then J.J. Abrams-ish things happen. **A**

**X-Men: First Class* (PG-13)

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender. How did Charles Xavier and Erik Lehnsherr, pre- Professor X and Magneto, meet? Awesomely. **A-**



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POP CULTURE:

would be drawn to this G-rated movie. (And when some cars meet a gruesome demise, I wondered just how G-rated the movie felt so some of those younger fans.) Sure, wackiness, pratfalls and potty jokes festoon every scene but I didn't hear a lot of laughter in the theater — more from the adults at references like Brent Mustangburger, a sportscasting car voiced by Brent Musburger, and at sight gags like the strange anime-style cartoon that explains how to use the toilet in Tokyo.

This isn't one of those, for lack of a better descriptor, Dreamworks cartoons where it's all pop culture rat-a-tat with the occasional potty joke. But *Cars 2* doesn't rise to the usual level of Pixar quality either. *Cars* might have been a wildly successful endeavor when it comes to marketing, but as a film it was one of my least favorite of the Pixar offerings. This movie feels like an even less impressive version of that original movie. Here, we don't have the wonder of seeing the car world for the first time and the central story doesn't have nearly the heft. The movie puts Mater, not Lightning McQueen, at the center, which is probably a smart choice — for all that the Larry the Cable Guy shtick can get old fast, his Mater is a more likeable character than Wilson's whiny McQueen. But this has the feel of a direct-to-video side-story more than a new adventure in this world. Most of the characters from the last movie appear only as cameos, and we aren't as emotionally connected to these new characters.

Sequels aren't easy, but Pixar found a way to mix familiar characters and fresh new stories in its *Toy Story* sequels, particularly *Toy Story 3*. Even "Hawaiian Vacation," the *Toy Story* short that appears before this movie, does a better job at getting the balance right — there's some new stuff, some old stuff, some fresh jokes and some sweetness. *Cars 2* feels more like a clunky amusement park ride than it does a new adventure.

Having said all that, *Cars 2* is still better than some of the recent animation duds — *Rango*, *Mars Needs Moms* and the like. It just isn't up to that sterling Pixar standard. **C+**

Rated G. Directed by John Lasseter and Brad Lewis and written by Ben Queen, John Lasseter, Brad Lewis and Dan Fogelman, Cars 2 is an hour and 46 minutes long and is distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

Bad Teacher (R)

Cameron Diaz is a horrible educator and a worse person in *Bad Teacher*, a mean but junk-foodily enjoyable comedy.

Elizabeth Halsey (Cameron Diaz) did not get to know her fellow teachers during her one year as a middle school English teacher, but none of that matters now as she is off to marry a wealthy man and live a life of leisure. Unfortunately, that man has a mother and that mother doesn't approve of this obvious gold digger so on the day she merrily speeds away from her middle school, Elizabeth comes home to find herself getting dumped.

Skip to the beginning of the next school year and she is unhappily back at John Adams Middle School and working hard to figure out how to do something with her life other than working hard. She decides that a boob job is her ticket to a better class of man and therefore a better life, but where to get the \$10,000 she needs? Skimming off the school car wash and asking for "tutoring money" from her students' parents only

FILM Continued

gets her so far. And the situation becomes all the more desperate when an attractive, wealthy and recently single substitute arrives.

Scott Delacorte (Justin Timberlake) is just the kind of rich moron Elizabeth is looking for, but cornball teacher Amy Squirrel (Lucy Punch) also has her eyes on him. Thinking that only boobs will save her, Elizabeth learns of another way to make some extra scratch — the annual bonus that goes to the teacher whose students score the highest on the standardized test. To get her to her desired cup size, Elizabeth may have to do the unthinkable — teach her students.

Movies with nutball central characters need voice-of-reason supporting characters, and here that role is filled by Jason Segel, who plays Russell the gym teacher. He likes Elizabeth in spite, and maybe a bit because, of her horrible self, likes her even as she nakedly chases Scott for less than romantic reasons. That Segel is able to do this without making his character a doormat is actually pretty impressive. Segel is quite good at playing this particular flavor of schlub.

In fact, there are several pretty decent performances in this movie. Lucy Punch makes her goody-good teacher someone with several screws loose. She is what Tracy Flick of *Election* would turn into if she were only moderately successful at reaching her goals. Even at her most good-hearted, Amy is a woman who could do with some sedatives and a few weeks in some place with the words "wellness" and "facility" in its name. The more Elizabeth needles her, the more unhinged she becomes. Phyllis Smith (Phyllis in *The Office*) also has a solid supporting role as a teacher who seems both horrified by and fascinated with Elizabeth. She is the timid friend who knows she can't emulate the bad-girl rebel but likes to be in proximity.

Timberlake's role is about 70 percent of successful. Syrupy square Scott Delacorte could have used a few more minutes in the oven to get rid of some of his mushy parts. He is at his best when he is playing his character as kind of a screwy church youth group counselor. Other times, however, the movie seems to want to make him more of a cad or more of an idiot and it makes the character feel like a punch line rather than a real person. (Not to say he isn't a good punch line — Timberlake's one big singing scene in the movie is pretty great.)

And then there's Diaz, about half of a good character. Her awfulness is great fun to watch. But the story also needs her to have moments of heart deep down. The movie contains relatively believable examples of both of these, but it isn't able to completely mesh them together. "Now we need her to learn," says the movie as it takes an abrupt turn and the feeling part of the movie begins.

So, yes, if you've seen the trailers you have seen many, perhaps not all, but many of the best parts of the movie. Still, considering that and the shakiness of some of the characters, I don't completely not-recommend this movie. If you are looking for a tart alternative to feel-good movies, kid fare and big-explosion-filled action, *Bad Teacher* is sort-of worth your (matinee) ticket purchase. **C+**

Rated R for sexual content, nudity, language and some drug use. Directed by Jake Kasdan and written by Gene Stupnitsky and Lee Eisenberg, Bad Teacher is an hour and 29 minutes long and is distributed by Columbia Pictures.

Cinema locator

AMC Tyngsborough 440 Middlesex St., Tyngsborough, Mass., 978-649-3980. Chunky's Cinema & Pub Nashua 151 Coliseum Ave., chunkys.com Chunky's Pelham Cinema & Pub 150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499 Cinemagic Hooksett 1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com	Cinemagic Merrimack 12 11 Executive Place Dr., Merrimack, 423-0240, cinemagicmovies.com Flagship Cinemas Derry 10 Ashleigh Dr., Derry, 437-8800 AMC at The Loop 90 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen, Mass., 978-738-8942 O'Neil Cinema 12 Apple Tree Mall, Londonderry, 434-8633	Regal Concord 282 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-3800 Regal Hooksett 8 100 Technology Dr., Hooksett, 641-3456 Showcase Cinemas Lowell 32 Reiss Ave., Lowell, Mass., 978-551-0055
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Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org

• **Phil Ochs** (NR, 2011) A documentary about folksinger Phil Ochs; Thurs., June 30, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:40 p.m.
• **Cave of Forgotten Dreams** (G, 2011, in 2D) Thurs., June 30, at 2:05, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.; Fri., July 1, through Sun., July 3, at 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Mon., July 4, through Thurs., July 7, at 2:05, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.
• **Midnight in Paris** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., June 30, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri., July 1, through Sun., July 3, at 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 & 9:20 p.m.; Mon., July 4, through Thurs., July 7, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.
• **I Am** (NR, 2010) Fri., July 1, through Thurs., July 7, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:40 p.m.
• **Priceless** (NR, 2010) a documentary about running for office; Thurs., July 14, at 6 p.m. Followed by a post-film Q&A with filmmaker Steve Cowan, Gary Hirshberg (Stonyfield Organics CE-Yo), former Congressman Paul Hodes, former Senator Larry Pressler.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-FILM.

• **Potiche** (R, 2011) Thurs., June 30, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Bridesmaids** (R, 2011) Thurs., June 30, through Thurs., July 7, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., July 3, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **Midnight in Paris** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., July 1, through Thurs., July 28, at 7:30 p.m. Plus, Sun., July 3, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **Billy the Kid** (1941) Sat., July 2, at 4:30 p.m.
• **A Throw of Dice** (1929) silent Hindi film with live musical accompaniment, Sun., July 17, at 4:30 p.m.
• **Our Hospitality** (1923) starring Buster Keaton on Sun., July 31, at 4:30 p.m. Silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.

MILFORD DRIVE-IN

Route 101A in Milford, 673-4090, www.milforddrivein.com. Open daily; drive-in opens at 6:15 p.m.; movies begin at dusk. Admission is \$20 per car (up to 6 occupants).
Through Tues., July 5
• **Screen 1:** *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (PG-13, 2011); *Super 8* (PG-13, 2011)
• **Screen 2:** *Cars 2* (G, 2011); *Green Lantern* (PG-13, 2011)

FRANCO-AMERICAN CENTRE

Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, www.francoamericancentrenh.com

• **Cinema Mardi**, on the third Tues-

day of each month at 7 p.m. Film in French with English subtitles.

• **Roman de gare** (R, 2007) Tues., July 19, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Johnny Tremain** (G, 1957) Wed., July 6, at 1 p.m.
• **Ramona and Beezus** (PG, 2010) Mon., July 11, at 1 p.m.
• **Unstoppable** (PG-13, 2011) Tues., July 12, at 6 p.m. and Wed., July 13, at 1 p.m.
• **James and the Giant Peach** (PG, 1996) Mon., July 18, at 1 p.m.
• **Rabbit Proof Fence** (PG, 2002) Wed., July 20, at 1 p.m.
• **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (PG, 2010) Mon., July 25, at 1 p.m.
• **Stand By Me** (R, 1986) Wed., July 27, at 1 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.
Plaza Pics — in the Greeley Park Band shell with pre-show entertainment. See www.gonashua.com and click on SummerFun.

• **Despicable Me** (PG, 2010) on Fri., July 8, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Shrek Forever After** (PG, 2010) on Fri., July 15, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Nanny McPhee Returns** (PG, 2010) on Fri., July 22, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Wallace and Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death** (2008) and other shorts, on Fri., July 29, at 7:30 p.m.

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, www.amherst.lib.nh.us
• **The Lion King** (G, 1994) Tues., July 5, at 2 p.m.
• **International movie night**, Thurs., July 7, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided; call 673-2288.
• **Mulan** (G, 1998) Tues., July 12, at 2 p.m.
• **Tangled** (PG, 2010) Tues., July 19, at 2 p.m.
• **International movie night**, Thurs., July 21, at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided; call 673-2288.
• **Cars** (G, 2006) Tues., July 26, at 2 p.m.

POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
• **Independent film night** on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.
• **If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle** (Romania, UR, 2010) Thurs., July

14, at 6:30 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org. Some of these films are being screened at Music Hall Loft, at 131 Congress St. See website for details.
• **The Conspirator** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., July 1, and Sat., July 2, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Cave of Forgotten Dreams** (NR, 2011) Sun., July 3, and Tues., July 5, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Run Lola Run** (R, 1998) Wed., July 6, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Cedar Rapids** (R, 2011) Thurs., July 7, through Sat., July 9, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Queen to Play** (NR, 2011) Sun., July 10, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Groundhog Day** (PG, 1993) on Wed., July 13, at 7:30 p.m.

PARK THEATRE

19 Main St., Jaffrey, www.thepark-theatre.org, 532-7711. Fall film series held at the Jaffrey Women's Club, 33 Main St. in Jaffrey. Free admission.
• **San Francisco** (1936), with Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable, on Thurs., July 7, at 7 p.m.
• **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (1939) with James Stewart and Claude Rains, on Thurs., July 14, at 7:30 p.m.
• **42nd Street** (1933) with Ginger Rogers, on Thurs., July 21, at 7:30 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyport-movies.com
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• **The Princess of Montpensier** (NR, 2011) Fri., July 1, at 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., July 2, at 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., July 3, at 4:45 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., July 4, through Thurs., July 7, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Beginners** (PG-13, 2011) Fri., July 8, through Thurs., July 21: Fridays at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sundays at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Swampified:** With a Creole name meaning “juke” or “house party,” BaZa draw from Delta and Chicago style Blues greats — including Robert Johnson, Howlin’ Wolf and Muddy Waters — and color their style with bayou rhythms. On songs like “Hurricane Road,” you can practically smell the alligator stew cooking. The juke joint jump of “She Got Moves” provides another tasty treat; the trio plays a free weeknight outdoor show in a Nashua park band shell. See BaZa on Thursday, June 30, at 6 p.m. at Greeley Park, 105 Concord St. in Nashua.

• **Red, white & blue step:** Enjoy a sumptuous dessert buffet, and then dance away the calories to new and old songs at a party that includes a prime view of Manchester’s Independence Day fireworks. Guests are encouraged to dress in their patriotic best — couples and singles of all dance levels are welcome. Attend the Dance Party and Fireworks Celebration at the Queen City Ballroom, 21 Dow St. (second floor) in Manchester. Tickets are \$15 per person at the studio. Call 622-1500 or go to www.queencityballroomnh.com for more information.

• **Mop tops:** Ubiquitous NYC-based band Locksley appear in commercials for everything from Starz to Payless Shoes and web sensation videos like the paint-splattered clip for “The Whip” and the Beatles-meet-Pretenders garage rocker “Why Can’t I Be You.” They lead in to a 9 p.m. fireworks display on the Seacoast; the show moves indoors to Dover High School if it rains (with fireworks July 5). See Locksley on Monday, July 4, at 7 p.m. at Rotary Arts Pavilion and Henry Law Park in Dover. Go to www.bandoflocksley.com.

• **Spindizzy:** More than 100,000 dance music fans blew into Las Vegas for Electric Daisy last weekend — the DJ art form is ascendant. While superstars like Dead Maus and Tiesto play to sellout crowds, every Sunday, Manch Vegas denizens can enjoy Nkosl and other area MCs spinning electro, house, Bass, Fidget, Dub, Breaks & DnB, all webcast live. Attend Sunday Night Sessions on Sunday, July 3, at 9 p.m. at TJ’s Sports Bar, 21 Central St. in Manchester. Check out past sessions at www.ustream.tv/user/HyperHypo.

• **Dirty white boy:** To get an idea of the Southern fried rap rock that the band Rehab specialize in, mix Everlast with a dash of Kid Rock. Their biggest hit, “Sittin’ at a Bar,” is a lament about losing a girl who, says the lead singer (who looks like a slimmer version of John Goodman), “broke my heart in the trailer park.” Athol rockers The Circadian Rhythm and Crimson Bile complete the bill. See Rehab on Sunday, July 3, at the Amber Room, 53 High St. in Nashua (18+, doors at 5 p.m.). Tickets are \$20 at www.ticketmaster.com.

Blazing his own path

Charlie Christos takes a leap of faith

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

“A mission statement — I think I just found it,” says Charlie Christos toward the end of a wide-ranging discussion. “To make people feel the way I feel when I listen to music.” He names a few of the performers that inspire him — Sun Kil Moon, Bon Iver, Bonnie Prince Billy — quickly adding that it’s their spirit, not art, he’d like to emulate.

“I think a lot of people stop at their influences,” he says. “I think you need to go into the woods where it’s darkest and blaze your own path. Then you can look to these people and the way they did it for themselves.”

Christos embodies the axiom that art finds its actors, not the other way around. He began playing at an early age, and with preternatural guitar talents began opening shows for classic rock bands like Grand Funk and the Doobie Brothers before reaching his teens. Eventually he found his own voice, in the form of brooding, mysterious lyrics about love, death and betrayal, sung with gravelly insistence.

The 29-year-old songwriter made two albums, both well-received by critics and fans. But to Christos, neither managed to find the place he wanted to reach. With *Overawake* (2006), he says his elation at being in the studio led to an over-textured work: “I went so far with all of these post-production ideas [but] I couldn’t do that live. I would have to hire like 20 people.”

He tried paring things back for *Widow’s Gun* (2009), but soon found himself bedeviled by perfectionism, doing endless takes of the same songs: “I don’t know why I make it such a personal issue. I see so many people go into to studio and just sing their songs, but I’m not like them. It’s a sickness — I think about it all the time.”

So early this year he began sequestering himself in a borrowed farmhouse to focus on

finding that elusive music. In mid-2010 he’d already renounced performing at places that forced him to play covers, compete with dinner chatter and weather requests for “D*** in a Box” and “Happy Birthday.” This time, he cut back his live schedule even more and borrowed money to tide him through.

It’s still a struggle.

“I set up my equipment and just sit and try to work completely without distraction, and it keeps bringing me further away,” he says. “I feel dishonest — that’s part of why I had to pull back performing, it feels fake. If you’re playing songs written for a certain demographic or to get people dancing, that works for some people but not for me. It’s a different mindset entirely.”

At times, the muse seems to be staring back up an abyss.

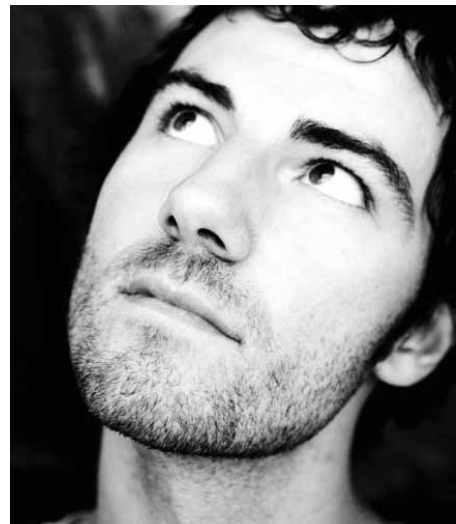
“I keep reclusing further and further,” Christos says. “It’s kind of a leap of faith, because I don’t know exactly what’s going to happen or if anything good is going to come of it, but I have been writing a lot.”

Much of his focus is on mood and feel. “I treat it like the way I would paint. I will maybe find one sound on my guitar and I’ll record it in all these different spaces until I find a sound that’s different and new,” he says. “There’s so much music out there and so many ways to criticize yourself into not even creating anything, so you need to constantly shut off all the voices and influences to really be honest and creative.”

The farmhouse is owned by the manager of Clark’s Tavern in Milford, one of a handful of places Christos still performs at (he was there June 2). “I play there a lot because I can play whatever I want,” he says. “I’ve developed a following and have a rapport — there are no expectations.”

This freedom occasionally provides an impetus for the kind of inspiration Christos seeks in his moments of artistic solitude.

“Sometimes, I will just start playing



Charlie Christos. Courtesy photo.

chords. I’ll follow those, and they’ll just click. I feel the energy change in the room and I start singing, from lyrics in my notebook or adding to them,” he says. “It’s not linear, I don’t have verse/chorus, because I’m making it up on the spot — but I have a recorder going.”

He’s not the only person who senses something happening. “The whole room is silent,” says Christos. “Then they’re asking, ‘What was that?’ and I say I don’t know, I was just making it up. But I was taping it, so I have it.”

When he returns to the farmhouse, or his home studio at his family home in Hudson, Christos brings these feelings of inspiration with him.

“I’m trying to go back and recreate those moments because they are real,” he says. “Something passes through the room when you’re writing and all of a sudden you get it, you hear it and you tune in ... I just really want to wait for those kind of moments to happen and then put it out honestly.”

Charlie Christos

When: Saturday, July 2, at 9 p.m. Where: Clark’s Tavern, 40 Nashua St. in Milford
For more, go to www.reverbNation.com/charliechristos or www.charliechristos.com

Trace Adkins blends country, rock & family

Country singer will perform at Meadowbrook

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

In early June, Trace Adkins stepped off a plane in Alaska, ready to fish and play a pair of shows, when his “cell phone blew up.” The news: his Brentwood, Tenn., home was destroyed in an electrical fire. Fortunately, his three daughters, inside when the blaze started, were safe, as was Adkins’ wife. Asked about it later, Adkins told a CMA Music Fest crowd he was grateful it happened at 3 in the afternoon, not 3 in the morning, and talked about his sense of relief at knowing no one was hurt. “After that, the rest is just stuff,” he said, and urged fans who were reaching out to donate to the Red Cross.

In an interesting twist, a few days later Adkins’ label released a new video featuring the singer bonding with his 9-year-old

daughter, who had received an award from PETA for rescuing the family’s dogs during the fire. “Just Fishin’” is a trademark Adkins ode to family love, the first single from a new album, due Aug. 2, called *Proud To Be Here*. The title, says Adkins, “takes on even more meaning now.”

Trace Adkins talked about the fire, the new album and other topics with the Hippo during a break between shows in Wisconsin.

You’ve said the new record’s title reflects your personal life. How so?

Well, it just says that I’ve had a few close calls. More than that, I know that the life expectancy of a country artist in this modern era ... let’s just say it’s a lot shorter than the length of time that I’ve been around, so I feel like everything from now on out is gravy for me. I’m just not one to take that for granted or discount it in any way.

I’m fully aware of that and very appreciative of the fact that I’m still around.

Do you find it strange that other songwriters can tell your story for you?

No, not at all — there are a lot of ... guys that I know well and when they know that I’m getting ready to go into the studio and it’s time for me to make a new record, they just start writing stuff. They know how to point it straight at me and they know my story and they know my personality, my politics. It’s really not that difficult for guys with those kinds of jobs to write stuff that they know I’ll sing.

The press release for the new album called your duet with Blake Shelton, “If I Was A Woman,” a response song. Are you responding to the Beyoncé song, “If I Was A Boy”?

NITE

No [laughs] — this song says, if I was a woman, I'd love a man like me. It's just a funny thing where Blake and I are jousting back and forth, where we're saying, "I've got this quality" and "I'm like this" and "chicks like that better." It's just a back-and-forth kind of thing. We have a lot of fun with it and I think it turned out really cool.

How did you get the news about your house burning down?

I landed in Anchorage; we were going up to Alaska to fish for two or three days and do a couple of shows up there, so we landed in Anchorage and that's when I got the news; we landed and my phone just blew up and that's when I got the initial call. All the concern was my wife and kids, and as soon as I found out that they were OK, it was just so very strange — just a huge sense of relief. As soon as I found out they were OK, the rest of it didn't truly — you hear people say that all the time and it sounds kind of trite: "As long as everybody is OK, that's all that matters." But when you go through something like that, then all of a sudden you realize, yeah, that's true — it's really all that matters. And when I got home and, I just dealt with the fact that everything else was just gone. Once you get to that spot, it's a lot easier to just move forward, get out of the problem and into the solution. There's no reason to just sit around and cry about it. It's a lot easier for guys to do. I can say that because I've got a wife and five daughters, and I know it's a guy thing. We can just move on. Women have a lot more trouble with that, I think.

Your songs about parenting — "Then They Do," "You're Gonna Miss This," "Just Fishin'" — do you feel them more strongly lately?

Oh yeah, of course. As a father, the first thing I wanted to do when I got home was get my kids away from that situation. I didn't want them standing there just staring at this mass of rubble. I didn't feel like it was doing them any good and so all I cared about was their mental well-being and helping them to smile and think about something else for a while. You just get into that protection mode and that's all you really concern yourself with, so yeah, those songs have a little more importance these days.

Your 9-year-old daughter received an award from PETA. What happened?

Well, she ran around behind the house. We have a nice little run behind the house that is fenced in and that's where the puppies were. I think they would have been OK if they could get far enough away from the house but she is very passionate about her dogs and she wasn't going to let anybody stop her. All they could do is follow her and try to catch up with her, and my neighbor just followed her back there. She's a strong-willed little girl — and a tough one.

Let's talk about influences — what inspired you to become a musician?

The first musical influence that I can recall in my life was my granddaddy. I loved standing beside him in church and listening to him sing the bass part on those old hymns and he had such a big rich voice and I just



Trace Adkins. Courtesy photo.

remember as a small boy, all I ever wanted to be was a bass singer like my granddaddy. To me he was the best singer in the world and he had such a beautiful voice. And that was the first thing I did, sing bass for a quartet, and I did that for about five years. At the same time, I was taking my guitar and going to hayrides and jamborees where they have a house band, but the only music that was listened to in my home was country music and that was because of my dad. He was and still is a huge country music fan, so all those influence like Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, all those guys influenced me early on, too.

Many of your songs blend country and rock. When you found rock music, did it meet with family resistance?

[Laughs] I didn't get to start listening to that stuff until I had a driver's license and my own truck. My old man said, "You can listen to that crap in your truck, but you're not listening to it in my house." Stuff like that — so as long as I kept it in the truck; he didn't give me too much guff about it.

You said a few years back that you didn't listen to much music, maybe light classical, and likened it to a plumber staying away from the pipes when he got home from work. Has that changed?

Not too much, man. I do find myself listening to stuff these days a little more than I used to. I don't want to give anybody a real plug or anything, but if I'm listening to music when I'm in the truck, it's probably going to be something like *Outlaw Country* on XM where you're going to hear some of the weirdest, most obscure, strange [stuff] you're ever going to hear! You're going hear stuff that you're going say, "How can they play this on the radio!" I listen to that from time to time for kicks and sometimes I'll hear some cool stuff on there. To be honest, I don't really know what it is. I'm attracted more to the strange and completely off-the-chart stuff that's not considered commercial than I am to anything that my peers are doing.

Trace Adkins

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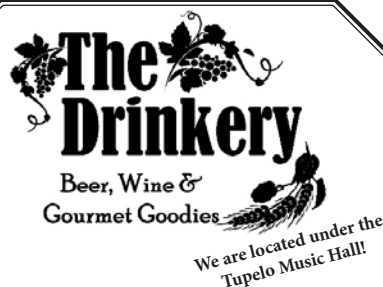
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NITE

Welcome to a grand illusion

Styx and Yes together this July

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Two iconic classic rock bands have joined forces to bring more than four decades of hits to the Granite State.

The hard rock guitar and strong ballads of Styx and Yes will take over the stage at Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavillion in Gilford on Saturday, July 9, with doors opening at 5 p.m.

"It will be a fantastic night of music," said Styx drummer Todd Sucherman. "I guarantee if you come to the show, you will be entertained."

Sucherman officially joined Styx on their *Return to Paradise* tour in 1997 but had stepped in as a ghost drummer in 1995 to record "Lady" when former band member John Panozzo fell ill. The *Return to Paradise* album went gold.

"I think in the last 10 years the band has never sounded better, and that's something I'm really proud of," Sucherman said. "That's not something that you can say about many bands that have been around this long."

While at age 42 Sucherman serves as the group's youngest member, he noted that the amount of energy the group has collectively is pretty incredible.

"I've been in a lot of bands and projects since I was 6 years old, and Styx is the only band that has never had a bad show," Sucherman said. "Some are better than others, and some are more magical, but it is amazing what those guys give on stage."

Over the past four years, Styx has been touring with many of the big-name bands that exploded onto the music scene at the same time as the iconic band, taking the stage with such groups as Boston, Journey, Def Leppard, REO Speedwagon, Kansas and Foreigner. And most recently, Yes.

"Styx included, those are all bands whose records I had while growing up," Sucherman said. "It's surreal touring with all these bands, because it's sort of like going on the road with the soundtrack of my youth."

Of bands he would like to see Styx tour with, Sucherman said he would love to do a full run with Cheap Trick (the groups have already paired up for a few shows) and The Who, even though he said they likely would not be on board. "They're English and really classic; I don't think they need any support," Sucherman said.

Styx recently announced the track listing for their upcoming EP, *Regeneration Vol. 2*, but has yet to nail down a release date, Sucherman said. *Regeneration Vol. 1* was released last summer.

"It will definitely be a traditional Styx sound as far as the way the band sounds today ... it was lovingly done with an eye to the past and eye to the future," he said of the music on the new EP.

Sucherman said he has a soft spot for the Styx hit "Fooling Yourself" because it is uplifting and musically it's an interesting landscape for the drummer to roam.

One Styx chart-topper that makes its way into every set list is "Come Sail Away."

"It's empowering onstage to see what this



Styx. Courtesy photo.

music means to people," Sucherman said. "You can see it on their faces and it never gets old."

Sucherman said the problem with having hit songs is that the band has to continue to play them at every show in their tour schedule.

"It's a good problem to have, and seeing how the music affects the people always keeps it fresh," he said.

Sucherman said that he has seen an increase of young people taking to the band's music over the last decade.

"Kids of all ages are coming out to the shows and we see them singing along with every song," he said.

Classic rock is classic for a reason, Sucherman said. "It resonates and has staying power ... I don't think all young people resonate with the narrow selection of pop music that gets jammed down their throat; rap is not everyone's cultural experience; pop stars who can barely sing but are good dancers in skimpy clothing is not everyone's musical cup of tea."

"It might be good television entertainment and fluff entertainment, but when it comes down to the power of music, melodies, chords, song construction and emotional content, I think that there is a wide array of people who seek that out and often times it's in the music of the last 10, 20, 30 or 40 years — all the way back to the 1960s," he said. "There is no amount of sensationalism, videos, explosions, distractions that can compete with actual good songs ... chords, melodies and harmonies — the [effect] those have on the brain is a much deeper thing than watching some chick in a bikini."

Having attended Berklee School of Music in Boston for one year, Sucherman said the New England area definitely has a place in his heart.

"It's not only great to get back to the area; it's great to visit with friends and New Hampshire is just gorgeous," he said. "I'm always happy to be there."

Styx/Yes

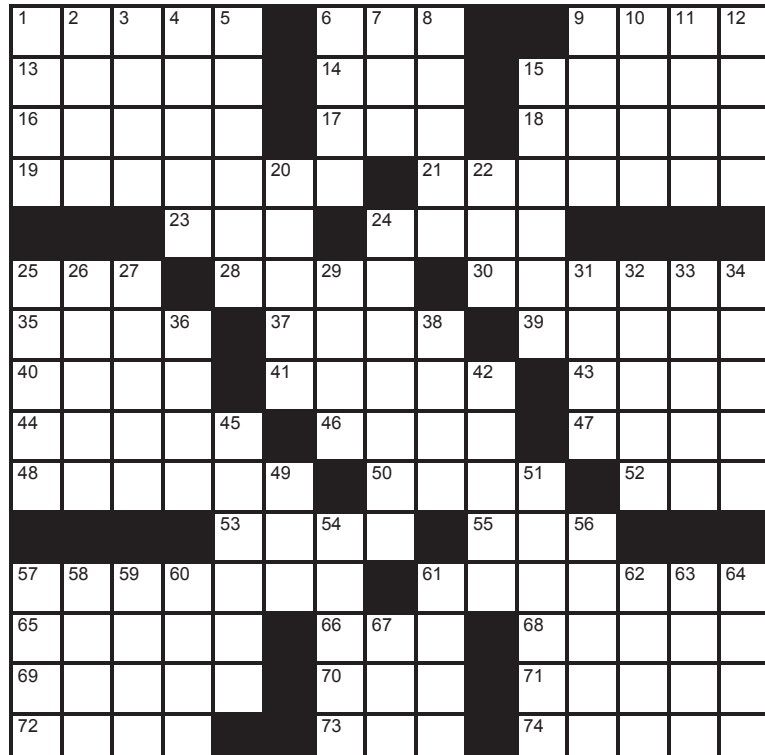
When: Saturday, July 9, at 5 p.m.

Where: Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion, 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford
Tickets: \$29-\$66 at www.meadowbrook.net or 293-4700

In the time of chimpanzees — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

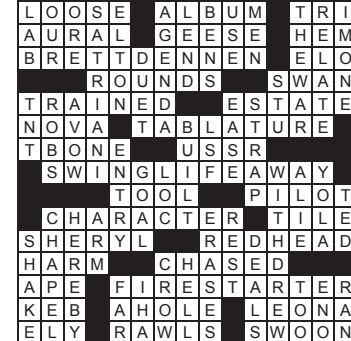
1. Beck 'Where ____' (3,2)
 6. 'Control I'm Here' Nitzer ____
 9. Ray Charles '____d I Say'
 13. Police "Blue ____ beached by a springtide's ebb"
 14. 'What Is It? A Fender Bender' Meg &
 15. What the singer has
 16. French pop duo
 17. What 'The Wall' is on
 18. Finger that anchors chord, for guitarist
 19. Ben E King '____ Me' (5,2)
 21. Battle of the bands, for one
 23. Colors a photog's light



24. '____ To Run' Springsteen'
 25. What PMRC will do
 28. Buddy Holly '____ On'
 30. E Street keyman Roy
 35. Clueless-inspired Sara Evans song? (2,2)
 37. Gene Simmons band
 39. Guitar-man Steve
 40. 'Clone' Leo Kottke/____ Gordon
 41. 'Thrasher' UK metal band
 43. Beck 'Leopard-Skin ____-Box Hat'
 44. Stoned
 46. U2 bassist Clayton
 47. Elton John's is 'Grey'
 48. 'Always The Last To Know' Del

50. Large scale show
 52. Pointer Sisters 'He's So ____'
 53. What critics give
 55. Beck 'Hollow ____'
 57. 'Flowers In The Dirt' McCartney

6/23



- song (4,3)
 61. Alice In Chains 'Check ____' (2,5)
 65. 'The ____ Of A Circle' David Bowie
 66. ____ Reed
 68. Billy Joel '____ Comes To Worst'
 69. Third Eye Blind '____ Ten' (3,2)
 70. 'Checkin' It Out' ____ Chris
 71. Media attraction
 72. Beck 'Dark ____'
 73. 'It's ____ In Your Mind' Beck
 74. What drummer provides

Down

1. Rod Stewart '____ Only Joking' (1,3)
 2. Brit award-winning poppers Take ____
 3. 80s Starship smash
 4. Beck "I've been drifting ____ in the same stale old shoes"
 5. Like a soft ballad
 6. 'Romancing The Stone' Grant
 7. Bell ____ DeVoe
 8. Mick Ralphs band (abbr)
 9. Replacements 'I ____'
 10. '____ Nor Hair' Ray Charles
 11. Passes audition w/flying colors
 12. How you find your friend
 15. Shredder guitarist Moore
 20. Juliana Hatfield band ____ Babies
 22. UK chillout pioneers
 24. Talk Talk 'Asides ____'

25. 80s music flick La ____
 26. Chicago "Take me ____" (2,1,2)
 27. Kill Cheerleader song about Motley Crue?
 29. '09 Bananarama album
 31. What fan does w/feet
 32. 'Stupidity ____' Elliot Smith
 33. Vandals song for Muslims?
 34. 'I'm Like A Bird' Furtado
 36. Stevie Wonder 'Knocks Me Off My ____'
 38. Bass technique
 42. Pink Floyd 'See ____ Play'
 45. Legendary New Orleans pianist (2,4)
 49. Rolling Stones' Stewart
 51. It might be on your amp in the attic
 54. 'Edge Of Seventeen' album ____ Donna
 56. Doobie Bros 'China ____'
 57. Mudcrutch 'Shady ____'
 58. 'A Sharp ____ Of New Tears' Dashboard Confessional
 59. Song concept
 60. Bob Marley '____ It Up'
 61. '____ Of Kintyre' Wings
 62. Dead was from the Bay ____
 63. Bon Jovi 'Say It ____ So'
 64. Bishop Allen 'Butterfly ____'
 67. 'Blue Sky Mine' Midnight ____

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 Written By: Todd Santos

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Commercial St., 669-2222 Ignite Bar & Grille 100 Hanover St., 494-6225 Jam Factory 1211 Elm St., 203-1458 Jewell & The Beanstalk 793 Somerville St., 624-3709 Jillian's Billiard Club 50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636 Johnny Bad's 542 Elm St., 222-9191 J.W. Hill's 795 Elm St., 645-7422 Lafayette Club 387 Canal St., 623-9323 Lazy Nick's Coffee House 362 Huse Road, 232-7187 Mad Bob's Saloon 342 Lincoln St., 669-3049 McGarvey's 1097 Elm St., 627-2721 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St., 625-4444 Moe Joe's 2175 Candia Rd, 668-0131 Mulligan's 424 Lake Ave., 623-6342 Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St., 644-3535 My Friend's Bar and Grill 507 Maple St., 627-3444 NH Institute of Art 148 Concord St. New England Revival Coffehouse Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., 625-9550, Olympic Lounge 506 Valley St., 644-5559 Piccola's Upstairs Lounge 815 Elm St. Penuche's Grill 96 Hanover St., 626-9830 Raxx Billiards 1211 Elm St., 203-1458 Rocko's Bar & Grill 253 Wilson St., 626-5866 Sam Adams Bar & Grill Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, 1 Line Drive., 641-2005 The Shaskeen 909 Elm St., 625-0246 Starbucks 111 S. Willow St., 641-4839 Strange Brew Tavern 88 Market St., 666-4292 Theos 102 Elm St., 669-4678 Unwine'd 865 Second St., 625-9463 Wally and Bernie's 20 Old Granite St., 641-2583 The Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722 Workmen's Club 183 Douglas St. XO on Elm 827 Elm St., 206-5721	The Yard 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545 Z Food and Drink 860 Elm St. Meredith Camp 300 DW Highway, 279-3003 Giuseppe's Ristorante 312 DW Highway, 279-3313 Merrimack The Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Highway, 424-2280 Milford American Legion 15 Cottage St., 673-9804 Chapanga's 168 Elm St., 249-5214 Elisha's Restaurant 437 Nashua St., 249.9353 J's Tavern 63 Union Sq., 249-9222 The Pasta Loft 241 Union Sq., 672-2270 Madison's Irish Pub 586 Nashua St. Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills 50 Emerson Road, 673-7123 Nashua The Amber Room 53 High St., 881-9060 Boston Billiard Club 55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121 The Bounty Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134 Club Social 45 Pine St., 889-9838 Country Tavern 452 Amherst St., 889-5871 Estabrook Grill 57 Palm St., 943-5035 Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015 Gate City Pub 56 Canal St., 598-8256 Haluwa Lounge Nashua Mall, 883-6662 Killarney's Irish Pub Holiday Inn, 888-1551 Lafayette Club 34 High St, 889-9860 Laureano Nightclub 245 Main St. Martha's Exchange 185 Main St., 883-8781 Michael Timothy's 212 Main St., 595-9334 Nashua Garden 121 Main St., 886-7363 Old Amsterdam Bar 8 Temple St., 204-5501 The Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St., 880-8686 Penuche's Ale House 4 Canal St., 595-9831 Pine Street Eatery 136 Pine St., 886-3501 The Polish American Club 15 School St., 889-9819 Sausage King	53 Main St., 204-5110 Shorty's Nashua Mall, 882-4070 Simple Gifts Coffee House 58 Lowell St. 603 Lounge 14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260 The Sky Lounge 522 Amherst St., 882-6026 Slade's Food & Spirits 4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334 Stella Blu 70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557 Sun Plaza Bar & Grille 295 DW Hwy, 888-4904 Villa Banca 194 Main St., 598-0500 New Boston Gravity Tavern 35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011 Newmarket Lamprey River Tavern 110 Main St., 659-3696 KJ's Sports Bar N. Main St., 659-2329 Stone Church 5 Granite St., 292-3546 Newton Hen House Sports Bar & Grill 85 S. Main St., 382-1705 Pelham Shooters 116 Bridge St., 635-3577 Peterborough Harlow's Pub 3 School St., 924-6365 Peterborough Players Theater Hadley Road Plaistow Corner Pocket 181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130 Dugout Grille 93 Main St., 819-4947 The Sad Café 148 Plaistow Rd,382-8893 Portsmouth American Legion Post 6 96 Islington St. Blue Mermaid Island Grill hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583 Daniel Street Tavern 111 Daniel St. Dolphin Striker 15 Bow St., 431-5222 Fat Belly's 2 Bow St. 610-4337 Gas Light Co. 64 Market St., 431-9122 The Hilton Garden Inn 100 High St., 431-1499 Jitto's Supersteak 3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755 The Music Hall 104 Congress St., 433-3100 Paddy's American Grill 27 International Dr., 430-9450 Players Ring Theater 105 Marcy St., 436-8123	Portsmouth Pearl 45 Pearl St., 431-0148, Press Room 77 Daniel St.,431-5186 The Red Door 107 State St., 373-6827 Red Hook Brewery 35 Corporate Dr., 430-8600 Ri Ra Irish Pub 22 Market Square, 319-1680 Rudi's 20 High St., 430-7834 Rusty Hammer 49 Pleasant St., 436-9289 The Wet Bar 172 Hanover St. Raymond Famous Legends Bar & Grill at Strikers East 4 Essex Drive Freetown Yankee Market 58 Route 27, 895-3418 Salem Black Water Grill 43 Pelham Road, 328-9013 Jocelyn's Lounge 355 S. Broadway, 870-0045 Maggie May's 326 S. Broadway, 893-4055 Sayde's Restaurant 136 Cluff Crossing Rd, 890-1032 The Varsity Club 67 Main St., 898-4344 Sandown The Crossing 328 Main St. Seabrook American Legion Post 70 169 Walton Road Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Rd, 474-6001 Honey Pot Bar & Lounge 920 Lafayette Rd, 760-2013 Master McGrath's Route 107, Seabrook, 474-6540 Prime Time Sports Grill 620 Lafayette Rd, 760-7230 Stratham Acoustic Outfitters 72 Portsmouth Ave.778-9711 Sunapee One Mile West Tavern 6 Brook Road, 863-7500 Sunapee Coffee House Methodist Church, Route 11 Tilton Thirsty Crows 504 Laconia Road, 524-5558 Wilton Pine Hill Auditorium Pine Hill Waldorf School, 77 Pine Hill Dr., Windham Jonathon's Lounge Park Place Lanes, Route 28, 800-892-0568
	Thursday, June 30 Auburn Holiday's: Jackie Lee Candia Henderson's: acoustic open mike Concord Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor Hermanos: John Lorentz Tandy's: DJ	Derry Brookstone Grille: Sheila Linehan Dover Barley Pub: bluegrass jam w/ Steve Roy Kelley's Row: DJ Evaredy RJ's: DJ J-Smooth Station House: open mike w/ Dave Nappy Band Epping Holy Grail: TJ Wheeler	Gilford Patrick's: Matt Tellier Hampstead Pasta Loft: Beloved Few Village Square: DJ Hampton Wally's Pub: Hot Like Fire Londonderry Coach Stop: Gary Lopez Whippersnappers: John Paul and Train Wreck	Manchester Black Brimmer: Take 4 Club 313: DJ Suga Shane Derryfield: Mugsy Duo Element: DJ Jason Starbucks: Daniel King Strange Brew: The Para-mounts Unwine'd: Chad LaMarsh Wild Rover: blues jam w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band Meredith Giuseppe's: Jim Tyrell	Merrimack Homestead: Tom Yoder Milford Clark's: Joe Birch Chapanga's: open mike w/ Driven Nashua Amber Room: DJ Amsterdam: DJ Fody's: Josh Logan Band New Boston Gravity Tavern: Lisa	Guyer Newton Hen House: acoustic open mike w/ John Pora-zinski Peterborough Harlow's Pub: bluegrass jam w/ JT Portsmouth Gaslight: Jim Devlin Duo Press Room: Chris Bur-bank Jazz Combo Red Door: Cliffe Arrand	Rudi's: Eric Klaxton Friday, July 1 Amherst Souhegan Christian Church: open mike w/ Music at the Ledge Belmont The Lodge: Eric Grant Band Top of the Town: Joe Holiday Concord Red Blazer: Matt Langley	Deerfield Lazy Lion: Dwight Phetteplace Dover Barley Pub: Jake Meh-rmann Brick House: Swine Lord RJ's: DJ Big Pez Epping Holy Grail: Robert Charles Exeter

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NITE

On the scene



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Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

Shooter's: DJ BiggZ

Gilford

Patrick's: Josh Logan and Paul Costley

Goffstown

Village Trestle: acoustic jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Morning Wood
Village Square: Rosie

Hampton

Wally's Pub: The Bars

Kingston

1686 House Tavern: Mike Belkas

Laconia

Broken Spoke Saloon: Mugshot
Paradise Beach Club: Element 78

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: Zero Gravity

Manchester

Black Brimmer: With-out Paris
Club 313: DJ Bob, DJ Dave G
The Derryfield: Nate and Dimitri, Take 4
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Mad Bob's: Thurkills Vision
Milly's: DJ Clashious Clay
Murphy's: Connipion Fits, Unplugged, Inc.
Rocko's: Barriers, Aviator, Coastlines, Reset, Capitals, Low Tide, Truth of My Youth, Trials
Shaskeen: Smokehouse Lightning
Strange Brew: Peter Parcek

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, DJ Holy Cow

In the spotlight



Deer Tick

Deer Tick, a Providence, R.I.-based indie group, will perform at the "Sneakers and Speakers" charity concert at The Page, 172 Hanover St., Portsmouth, on Saturday, July 2, at 7 p.m.. The show, organized by

New Hampshire native and San Antonio Spurs player Matt Bonner, will serve as a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club. Deer Tick, who describes their music as "rock-rock-rock" with hints of blues, folk and alt-country, made their television debut on *The Late Show with David Letterman* last June. The Bodega Girls, a party/electronic band from Boston, Mass., will open the show. Patriotic attire is encouraged. Tickets cost \$5 at the door.

Merrimack

The Homestead: Karen Grenier

Milford

Clark's: 3 Chords
Pasta Loft: Tom Dixon Band

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ Lou, DJ Danjah
Amsterdam: DJ Fody's: Cloud City Cowboys
Martha's Exchange: DJ Spivak
Peddlers Daughter: Cooper's Escape
Studio 99: young musicians' open mike

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Shagimaw
Gaslight: Tim Theriault Band, Tony Santesse
The Page: DJ Red Door: Ryan Obermiller
Press Room: Dan Blakeslee
Rudi's: Stephen Page

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Honey Pot: DJ

Saturday, July 2

Allenstown
Ground Zero: Element of the Machine, Cancer Kills Gemini, Novus Dae

Belmont

The Lodge: Exit 21
Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Concord

Hermanos: Blue Ribbon All Star Band
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Brick House: A Minor Revolution, Catastrophic OK, OC45, The Mores
RJ's: DJ

Epping

Holy Grail: Family Affair

Epsom

Circle 9 Ranch: Fair Game Band

Gilford

Patrick's: Doug Mitchell Duo

Hampstead

Village Square: Robbie Barton

Hampton

Wally's Pub: The Bars

Laconia

Broken Spoke Saloon: Bang N Jane
Naswa: DJ Terry Moran
Paradise Beach Club: Tigerlily

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: Groove Alliance

Manchester

Black Brimmer: 5 Flavor Discount
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: The Two Pauls, Nimnus 9
Fratello's: Marc Apostolides
Milly's: Friday After Five
Murphy's: Double Shot
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burrige, Acoustic Overdrive
Strange Brew: Tom Ballerini
The Yard: DJ Rich

Merrimack

The Homestead: Joe McDonald

Milford

Clark's: Charlie Christos



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winereviewonline.com 5/18/10



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Sokol Blosser Evolution

91 Pts! "This dynamic nine-grape blend features bright acidity, vibrant fruit, supple sweetness and a savory finish; a great welcome wine or fun turkey accompaniment." 11/01/09 *Cheers Magazine*



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Robert Mondavi Fume Blanc, Napa Valley

Highly Recommended! "Medium-full body; forward, grassy, citrus and peach flavors with a pleasing mouthfeel." 2/10, *CA Grapevine*

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NITE

Pasta Loft: Loose Grip

Nashua

Amber Room: DJ
Fody's: Molly
Martha's Exchange: DJ

New Boston

Gravity Tavern: T Mud and the Spuds

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: The Mango Wranglers
Gaslight: Tim Cannon, Social Groove, Max Sullivan
The Page: DJ
Press Room: jazz lunch w/ Larry Garland, I-Level
Red Door: Tom Bartlett
Rudi's: Nick Mainella

Sunday, July 3

Derry

Brookstone Grille: Tim Cannon

Concord

Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor

Dover

Brick House: Deliver Us, Coastlines, Hell on Earth, Legend Has It, Sufferer, Too Late The Hero
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: blues jam

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Kevin Hartman

Hampton

Boardwalk Cafe: Dan Kirouac

In the spotlight

Suzy Bogguss



Platinum-selling artist Suzy Bogguss will perform at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, on Saturday, July 9, at 8 p.m. Bogguss will release *American Folk Songbook* on July 18. The album will feature contemporary arrangements of traditional music, including "Beautiful Dreamer" and "Red River Valley" and is paired with a 96-page hardcover songbook including sheet music and stories behind each tune. Bogguss won the Grammy Award for Traditional Folk Album in 2005 and received the Album of the Year Award from the Country Music Association in 1994. Tickets cost \$35 to \$40 at www.tupelolondonderry.com or by calling 437-5100.

In the spotlight

World music ensemble



Village Harmony, a Vermont-based youth world music vocal ensemble, will perform gospel and jazz arrangements and traditional ethnic music at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 354 Main St., Hopkinton, on Tuesday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m. Village Harmony is an umbrella organization dedicated to the study and performance of ethnic singing traditions from around the world. Each group develops its own sound with a different international team of leaders. The group of 24 teenagers that will perform in Hopkinton is led by ethnic music specialists John Harrison, Natalie Nowytski and Olga Velitchkina. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 at the door (\$5 for students and seniors). Village Harmony will also perform at the Community Church in Francestown on Wednesday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Wally's Pub: Prospect Hill

Laconia

Broken Spoke Saloon: Pete Snow
Naswa: Ritchie Rich & The 24 Karat Band
Paradise Beach Club: Tigerlily

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: Hurricane Alley

Manchester

900 Degrees: blues open mike w/ Tom Ballerini
Derryfield: Fat Back Duo
Milly's: Friday After Five

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org

Lowell Memorial Auditorium

East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavillion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Prescott Park Arts Festival

105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittmore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

• **Steel Pulse** Thurs., June 30, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **Charles Neville, Henry Butler and Gent Treadly** Fri., July 1, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Peter Frampton** Fri., July 2, at 6 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Badfish!** A Sublime tribute Sat., July 2, Casino Ballroom
• **Trace Adkins** Sun., July 3, at 6 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Cheryl Wheeler** Wed., July 6, at 7 p.m., Prescott Park
• **John Eddie** Fri., July 8, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Will Makar and the Red Line** Fri., July 8, at 10 p.m., Boynton's
• **Toby Keith and Eric Church** Fri., July 8, at 5:30 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Pat Benatar** Fri., July 8, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **Toby Keith and Eric Church** Fri., July 8, at 5:30 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **Draw The Line, Blow Your Face Out** Sat., July 9, at 7:30 p.m., Palace
• **Dueling Pianos** Sat., July 9, at 8 p.m., Boynton's

• **Suzy Bogguss** Sat., July 9, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
• **Styx and Yes** Sat., July 9, at 5 p.m., Meadowbrook
• **The Turtles, The Association, The Grass Roots, Mark Lindsay and The Buckingham** Sun., July 10, at 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
• **k.d. lang and the Siss Siss Boom Bang** Tues., July 12, at 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
• **Shawn Colvin** Wed., July 13, at 7 p.m., Prescott Park

In the spotlight



Bob Saget

Former *Full House* star and *America's Funniest Home Videos* host Bob Saget will bring his standup comedy to the Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom, 160 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, on Saturday, July 9, at 8 p.m. Saget, who has been doing comedy for more than 30 years, appeared in *That Ain't Right*, an HBO special, and had a cameo role in *Entourage*. In 2010, Saget produced *Strange Days with Bob Saget*, a comedy documentary series on A&E. Tickets to the 18+ show cost \$25 to \$45 at www.casinoballroom.com or by calling 929-4100.

Penuche's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets

Rocko's: Chris Webby, Folklore, Henergy, GMC, Pure Grade, Scotty, Tha Biz

Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers

Strange Brew: Tom Keller and John Medeiros

Meredith Giuseppe's: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Nashua Fody's: open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Portsmouth Blue Mermaid: open mike

Gaslight: Ben Kilcollins, Cody James and Revelation, DJ Koko P

Red Door: Green Lion Crew

Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Sharon Jones

Stratham Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

Monday, July 4 Candia

Henderson's: electric rock open mike

Dover Castaway's Boathouse: Denis Patrick's Merry Pranksters' open mike

Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark

Wally's Pub: DJ

Laconia Naswa: Sugarfoot & The Brass Kickin Horns

Manchester Derryfield: Lisa Guyer

Fratello's: Steve Sibulkin

Merrimack The Homestead: Lachlan McLearn

Milford J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

Portsmouth Gaslight: Jimmy D

Tuesday, July 5 Concord

Barley House: Irish sessions

Hermanos: Bob Arpin Duo

Dover Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca

RJ's: DJ

Hampstead Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Londonderry Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester Derryfield: Tony Santesse

Fratello's: Alli Beaudry

Milly's: Manchuka

Strange Brew: Peter Parcek

Meredith Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack The Homestead: Paul Luff

Milford J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Portsmouth Gaslight: Dave Clark

Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland, hoot open mike

Seabrook Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, July 6 Antrim Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn Holiday's: DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen Alan's: open mike

Concord Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor

Hermanos: Jared Steer

Tandy's: DJ

Dover Barley Pub: George Brown Band

Brick House: Seacoast Acoustic All Stars

Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase

Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Exeter Shooters: Red Sky Mary

Hampton Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Laconia Naswa: Joel Cage

Manchester The Derryfield: Chris Lester

Fratello's: Gardner Berry

Jam Factory: open jazz jam

Penuche's: open mike w/ Friday After Five

Strange Brew: Sev

Merrimack The Homestead: Tom Yoder

Milford Clark's: open mike w/ Gary Lopez

J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks

Pasta Loft: Bob Alwarden

Nashua 603 Lounge: open mike w/ Kevin Horan

Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug

Studio 99: jazz jam

Peterborough Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth Blue Mermaid: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell

Gaslight: Kevin Burt

Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy

Rudi's: Dimitri

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, June 30 Nashua Fody's Tavern: Alana Susko

Sunday, July 3 Hampton Casino Ballroom: Jon Pinette

Monday, July 4 Concord Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, July 5 Manchester Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, July 6 Manchester Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, July 7 Manchester Jam Factory: The Comedy Machine

Saturday, July 9 Hampton Casino Ballroom: Bob Saget

Manchester Headliners: Paul Giligan, Roddy Thomas and Ryan Gartley

Monday, July 10 Concord Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, July 11 Manchester Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, July 12 Manchester Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua Penuche's: live standup

Thursday, July 14 Londonderry Tupelo: Sandra Berhard

Nashua Fody's: Alana Susko

Saturday, July 16 Manchester Headliners: Chris Tabb

Monday, July 18 Concord Penuche's: live standup

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- Across**

1 Jumbo-sized

6 Cinnamon-covered snacks

13 He was found in a spider hole

14 It’s shown with a rolled-up sleeve

15 Deodorant options

16 Plant used in food coloring

17 Former domestic carrier

18 Streamlined

19 Without a gosh-dang thing on
- 25 Added boost

26 ___ noire

27 Actor who played himself in “Zombieland”

29 Give off

30 Comparable to

31 Interior designer’s concern

33 Standing upright

38 Prolific science fiction author Isaac

44 Palindromic fashion mag

45 Substance that may be donated

49 Get ready (for)
- asker

61 Speak haltingly

62 How some words are best left

63 It’s on the mast

64 Nobel Prize-winning physicist Bohr
- 41 Blood vessel imaging machine

42 ___-pah bands

43 Beetles and Rabbits, e.g.

45 Most vile

46 Words before “interpretation” or “the public”

47 Like batters in the on-deck circle

48 Puts forth effort

52 “One of ___ days...”

54 Trebek’s “High Rollers” co-star Lee

57 Six, in Italy

58 Carson Daly’s former MTV show

59 Piece

60 Start for sex or corn

Down

- 1 Like interplanetary travel
- 2 “Sounds fun” response
- 3 Deck out
- 4 Palindromic woman’s name
- 5 Symbols after brand names
- 6 Hoops group until 2009
- 7 Solo on the big screen
- 8 Coffee dispensers
- 9 Less phony
- 10 Like movies for “mature audiences”
- 11 Sandinista leader Daniel
- 12 Robinson of R&B fame
- 13 “What’re you gonna do about it?”
- 15 Got the genie out of the lamp
- 20 “This is only a test” gp.
- 21 Spectra maker
- 22 Airline in Holland

6/23

S	K	A	T	E		H	E	R	O		T	E	A	R
S	I	M	O	N		O	P	E	N		A	L	T	O
T	W	O	A	T	A	T	I	M	E		X	M	E	N
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G	I	V	E	I	T	A	L	L	I	V	E	G	O	T
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A	G	U	A			K	A	Y	O		A	G	A	V
G	O	S	H			S	T	A	R		L	I	B	Y

- 50 Highest point
- 51 Chewy fried seafood dish
- 53 Job that determines chicken genders
- 55 “Hungry” board game animal
- 56 Put complete faith in
- 59 “Is it bigger than a breadbox?”

- 23 Tahiti, par exemple
- 24 Ethnomusicologist’s deg., maybe
- 28 Exploit
- 32 Aries, e.g.
- 34 Revenge tactic
- 35 Punctuation that lets you trail off
- 36 Gave a round of applause
- 37 Kind of muscle
- 39 ___ fly (baseball play)
- 40 Dublin’s country, in the Olympics

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All quotes are from *Dave Barry's Greatest Hits*, by Dave Barry, born July 3, 1947.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) “Lately I’ve been feeling very patriotic, especially during commercials.” —“Red, White, and Beer” If commercials are the most inspiring thing you’re seeing, rethink your relationship to the arts.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) “Sneeze shields actually spread disease, because they make it hard for a ... short-armed person to reach back to the chick peas and simulated bacon, and some of these people inevitably are going to become frustrated and spit in the House Dressing....” —“Making the World Safe for Salad” Don’t act out your frustrations.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “A recent poll showed that 82 percent of the Americans surveyed speak no foreign language at all. Unfortunately, the same poll showed ... 53 percent cannot name the state they live in, and 62 percent believe that the Declaration of Independence is ‘a kind of fish.’” —“Europe on Five Vowels a Day” Would it kill you to become a little more knowledgeable?

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “You should know that my father was a fine, decent, and sensitive man, but unfortunately he had no more fashion awareness than a baked potato.” —“The Hair Apparent” Your fashion sense could use outside help.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) “I’m

a writer and my editor is always very direct with me. ‘Dave, this column bites the big one,’ is the kind of thing he’ll say by way of criticism.” —“TV or Not TV” A blunt critique may be useful.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) “And football breeds character. They are constantly scrubbing the locker rooms because of all the character that breeds in there.” —“Sacking the Season” Scrub your locker room and work on your character.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) “Man gets his food by eating cows, which in turn eat corn, which in turn comes from Iowa, which in turn was part of the Louisiana Purchase, which in turn was obtained from France, which in turn eats garlic, which in turn repels vampires, which in turn suck the blood out of Man.” —“Electromaggots” Remember you are part of a great chain of activity that neither begins nor ends with you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) “...but we males could not focus our attention ... because we could actually feel the World Series television and radio broadcast rays zinging through the air, penetrating right into our bodies, causing our dental fillings to vibrate, and all the while the women were behaving as though nothing were wrong.” —“Batting Clean-Up and Striking Out” You will need to focus your attention, but it will be difficult.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) “Actually, when I got older I continued to play

organized baseball in the form of ‘league softball,’ a game in which after work you put on a comical outfit and go to a public park to argue with strangers.” —“Catching Hell” You will not benefit by arguing with strangers.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) “It’s football season ... I know I speak for everybody in North America when I

make the following statement: rah.” —“Sacking the Season” If you’re invited to a party, say yes and say ‘rah.’

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “Whatever kind of skiing you decide to do ... make sure you have proper ski equipment. When your great grandfather was a boy, of course, he’d simply take two barrel staves and tie them to his feet.”

SIGNS OF LIFE

—“Slope Flake” Tune up your equipment for an impending task.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) “... if you’ve ever done anything humiliating, you’ve probably noticed that your brain never lets you forget it. This is the same brain that never remembers things you should remember.” —“The Embarrassing Truth” Let go of a hurtful memory.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2			3		5		1
				9	2		
9	4						
				7			2
	9			2		6	
1				8			
						7	8
		7		4			
3		2			1		6

Difficulty Level ★★

6/30

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SU
DO
KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

6/16	2	6	9	4	7	5	8	3	1
5	4	1	3	6	8	2	9	7	
3	7	8	9	1	2	6	5	4	
4	2	7	6	9	1	3	8	5	
8	3	5	2	4	7	1	6	9	
1	9	6	5	8	3	4	7	2	
7	1	2	8	3	9	5	4	6	
9	8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3	
6	5	3	7	2	4	9	1	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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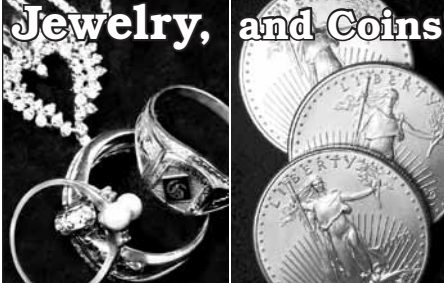
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Giddyup!

When a strain of equine herpes led to a temporary quarantine at horse farms in central Utah, the sponsors of the Davis County Mounted Posse Junior Queen contest in May had a dilemma, but instead of canceling the competition in which the cowgirls show their skills on horseback, they decided to conduct the show except with the girls "riding" stick "ponies" to get style points. Former queen Savanna Steed told KSL-TV the change would be good because it would better test riders' knowledge of the routines instead of their relying on their horses to make the moves.

Latest Religious Messages

• Unclear on the Concept: India's Ganges River has become famously polluted, in part by reverent Hindu pilgrims who toss "offerings" (such as clothing, statues and the cremated ashes of loved ones) into it in hope of prosperous lives and holy afterlives. Hindu immigrants in New York City, without access to the Ganges, have called upon Jamaica Bay as a stand-in. The formerly quiet waters adjacent to JFK International Airport now ebb and flow with similar offerings that ultimately litter the bay's federal recreation area shoreline. Hindu community leaders in New York, with only mixed success, constantly urge greater environmental sensitivity.

• From time to time, clever rabbis suggest ways of bypassing ancient Talmudic laws that restrict observant Jews' behavior on the Sabbath (a day of "rest"). In April, Rabbi Dror Fixler, an electro-optics expert from Bar-Ilan University in Israel, said he could foresee a day when even driving a car might be permitted on the Sabbath. The driver would wear an encephalography helmet that could catch brain signals and transmit them to a car's operating and steering system, removing the need for "action" on the driver's part (thus theoretically leaving him "at rest").

The Continuing Crisis

• Mattel revealed that its best-selling fashion doll in the last year, for the age-6-and-up market, has been the teen werewolf "Monster High" model, Clawdeen Wolf, who comes with heavy makeup, a short skirt and high boots, and who supposedly spends her time "waxing, plucking and shaving." (Says Clawdeen, in promotional materials, "My hair is worthy of a shampoo commercial, and that's just what grows on my legs.") Though Mattel claims the doll celebrates girls' imperfections, a counselor told Fox News she was appalled that the company tells young girls they "need to sculpt, tweeze, wax and ... change their bodies" to attract men.

• Cyber Making-Out: Tokyo's Kajimoto Laboratory has created a tongue-kissing machine to enable lovers to suck face over the Internet, according to a May CNN report. At separate locations, the pair place special straws in their mouths and mimic a deep kiss, which is recorded and transmitted to each other's straws. Researcher Nobuhiro Takahashi sees profit in "celebrity" tongue-kissing applications, but said more work is needed to establish individual taste, breathing and tongue moistness. (Another team of Japanese researchers, using a harness-type device, reported making similar advances — in Internet "hugging," with sensors that mimic lovers' heartbeats and

even their spine's "tingling" and stomach's "butterflies.")

• Tacky: (1) The Columbus, Ohio, school board accepted principal Kimberly Jones' resignation in May following revelations by The Columbus Dispatch that she, though earning \$90,000 a year, swore on federal forms that she made just \$25,000 — so that her own two children would qualify for reduced-price school lunches. (2) Prime Healthcare Services, with a reputation for rescuing financially failing hospitals, reported that two new acquisitions, in Victorville, Calif., and Redding, Calif., somehow curiously experienced rates about 40 and 70 times the state average in patients with a rare Third World Ghanaian sickness that, conveniently, qualified the hospitals for enhanced Medicare reimbursements.

Fine Points of the Law

In a pre-trial motion in a Chicago court case in May, the defense lawyer for Exotic Motors Inc., which is being sued over car repairs, complained about plaintiffs' lawyers' unusual decision to permit a female paralegal to sit at their courtroom table, especially since she is a "large-breasted woman." Her "sole purpose" at the table, lamented defense lawyer Thomas Gooch, was "to draw the attention of the jury," presumably in favor of the plaintiffs. Gooch later told the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin that he was concerned only with her "qualifications" to sit at the table.

Questionable Judgments

• The recent Memorial Day weekend was a time of reflection for the residents of Long Island (N.Y.)'s Shelter Island, who were honoring a soldier from the neighborhood who had recently been killed in Afghanistan. The local American Legion placed new, heavy-duty American flags on telephone poles along a parade route, but only afterward was informed that Long Island Power Authority, which owns the poles, is required by state law to charge an unwaivable rental fee for the poles.

• Principal Terry Eisenbarth apologized to parents and children at Washington Elemen-

tary School in Mount Vernon, Iowa, in May and promised to stop his ritual "whammies," in which he summons kids on their birthdays to his office, sings "Happy Birthday" to them, and ceremonially spans the child's backside with a cushioned hockey stick (with the number of whacks equaling the child's age).

Least Competent Gun-Handling

(1) Former Camden, N.J., police Sgt. Jeffrey Frett pleaded guilty in May in a scheme to qualify for early retirement by arranging to be shot in the leg (to be attributed to random street violence). The plan deteriorated, police said, when Frett's wife (the designated shooter) missed his leg, merely ripping a hole in his uniform pants. (2) Ryan Martin, 29, and Erica Clayburn, 20, were charged with reckless endangerment in Derry Township, Pa., in April after Martin was shot in the jaw. The couple were playing a game resembling "Marco Polo" with a loaded handgun, with an eyes-closed Clayburn firing when Martin shouted "Gun!" (Martin was supposed to duck out of the way before Clayburn pulled the trigger.)


Classic Middle Name (all-new!)

Arrested recently and awaiting trial for murder: Anthony Wayne Smith (former Oakland Raiders football player), Los Angeles (March); Theron Wayne Johnson, Weston, Texas (May); Michael Wayne McGray, Vancouver, British Columbia (May); Darrell Wayne Morris, Price, Utah (May). Convicted of murder: Thilbert Wayne Hager, Statesville, N.C. (October). Execution for murder stayed by U.S. Supreme Court: Daniel Wayne Cook, Phoenix (on death row since 1987) (April). Sentenced for murder: Billy Wayne Haynes, Odessa, Texas (life) (May); Jeffrey Wayne Riebe, Conway, S.C. (40 years in prison) (June).

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, <http://www.NewsOfTheWeird.com>, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



LIBYA MADE SIMPLE
 FEATURING "CHUCKLES" THE SENSIBLE WOODCHUCK
 BASICALLY, THE WAR IN LIBYA IS NOT A WAR AT ALL!

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S REALLY MORE OF A CONDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN KINETIC MILITARY KIND OF, UM, ACTIONY THING.

SO OBAMA IS OBVIOUSLY NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION!

IT'S EXTREMELY CLEAR CUT! NOBODY WITH ANY REAL KNOWLEDGE DISAGREES!

WELL, EXCEPT FOR ERIC HOLDER, AND THE TOP ATTORNEYS AT THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

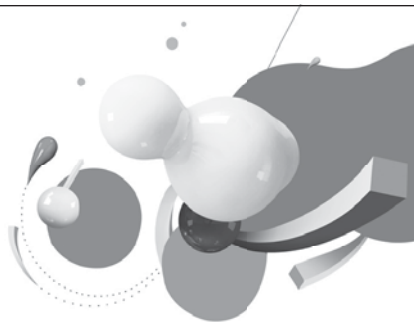
WHATEVER! THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE SOMEBODY WHO DISAGREES!

BUT THE FACT REMAINS: WITH NO AMERICAN TROOPS IN HARM'S WAY, THERE ARE TECHNICALLY NO HOSTILITIES!

AND THEREFORE NO WAR! END OF DISCUSSION!

OF COURSE, BY THAT LOGIC, A NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE WOULDN'T REALLY COUNT AS WAR, EITHER.

SERIOUSLY, DON'T OVERTHINK IT.



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HAMPTON BEACH - SINCE 1899

nickelodeon
BIGTIME RUSH
all ages show
WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 31
ON SALE FRIDAY @ 10AM

STEEL PULSE
THURSDAY JUNE 30

BADFISH
a tribute to
SUBLIME
SAT 7/2 • ALL AGES

comedian
JOHN PINETTE
sunday july 3

BENATAR
FRIDAY JULY 8
NEIL GIRALDO

Bob SAGET
saturday JULY 9

RAFFY TOGETHER
SUNDAY JULY 10

TAKING BACK SUNDAY
tue 7/19 • all ages

comedian
JEFF DUNHAM
WED 7/20 & THU 7/21

Edin Karyakin
FRIDAY JULY 22

Buckcherry
SATURDAY JULY 23

sunday, July 24--
HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
~all ages show

AARON LEWIS
OF STAIN'D
MONDAY • JULY 25

PUDDLE & MUDD
{tuesday} July 26

Reel Big Fish
WED JULY 27 67PM
ALL AGES SHOW! STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO

COMEDIAN
BRIAN REGAN
THU • JULY 28

LISA LAMPANELLI
FRIDAY JULY 29

JOSH TURNER
SUNDAY JULY 31

ALL-TIME LOW
GIMME SUMMER YA LOVE TOUR
MONDAY AUG 1 @ 7PM
[ALL AGES SHOW]

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
Tuesday/Wednesday
AUGUST 2 and AUGUST 3

Louis C.K. comedian, 2 shows ...thu AUG 4
Queensrychefri AUG 5
Americasat AUG 6
Reggae Revival with Ali Campbell's UB40, Junior Marvin's Wailers and Maxi Priestsun AUG 7
Melissa Etheridgemon AUG 8
Cinderellawed AUG 10
Ron White comedianfri AUG 12
Barenaked Ladiessat AUG 13
Ted Nugentmon AUG 15
KC & The Sunshine Band fri AUG 19
Whitesnakesun AUG 21
Kenny Wayne Shepherd fri AUG 26
Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukessat AUG 27
The Monkeessun AUG 28
B.B. Kingfri SEPT 2
Carnival of Madness Tour with Theory of a Deadman, Alter Bridge and Black Stone Cherrysat SEPT 3
Bret Michaelssat SEPT 17
George Thorogood & The Destroyerssat OCT 8

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LIVE

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